



PHIL*1010 Introductory Philosophy: Social and Political Issues

Winter 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 3.00 - January 07, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course introduces philosophy through an examination of important issues in politics and society, such as punishment, animal rights, discrimination, war and violence, equality and property. These issues may be introduced through contemporary or historical philosophical writings.

1.2 Course Description

This course is a philosophical introduction to current social and political issues. Public discourse is in a sorry state: partisanship is rampant; the left is becoming alarmingly authoritarian; the right is becoming increasingly transgressive. Fortunately, philosophy provides us with the tools necessary to navigate, examine, and evaluate positions in a clear and systematic manner. In this course, we will consider many of the most important problems of modern times. It will directly deal with current events and seek to understand their causes and effects. Topics of discussion will include but are not limited to: the state of nature; free speech; the legislation of force; racism; affirmative action; privilege; rights; the redistribution of wealth; and, the permissibility of violent rebellion.

1.3 Timetable

Lectures are held from 4:30 PM to 5:20 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays in War Memorial Hall (WMEM), room 103. Check WebAdvisor for the time and place of your seminars. The dynamic reading schedule is available on CourseLink.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest

information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: Kyle Bromhall
Email: kbromhal@uoguelph.ca
Office: MCKN 335

2.2 Teaching Assistant(s)

Teaching Assistant: Orsolya Csaszar
Email: ocsaszar@uoguelph.ca
 TA for sections 01, 02, and 17.

Teaching Assistant: Kyle Johnston
Email: kjohns32@uoguelph.ca
 TA for sections 05 and 06.

Teaching Assistant: Brenton Ables
Email: bables@uoguelph.ca
 TA for sections 07 and 08.

Teaching Assistant: Shadi Heidarifar
Email: heidaris@uoguelph.ca
 TA for sections 09 and 10.

Teaching Assistant: Gordon Trenbeth
Email: gtrenbet@uoguelph.ca
 TA for sections 11 and 12.

Teaching Assistant: Maria Storfa
Email: mstorfa@uoguelph.ca
 TA for sections 13, 14, 15, and 16.

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resource(s)

An Introduction to Political Philosophy (Textbook)
 Wolff, Jonathan. 3rd Ed. Available at the campus bookstore.

Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction (Textbook)
 Warburton, Nigel. Available at the campus bookstore.

Various Articles (Article)
 See CourseLink; all will be available through Ares.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. identify and critically evaluate the practical and cultural significance of central issues in social and political philosophy.
 2. explain, in their own words, many of the central concepts of contemporary social-political philosophy.
 3. appreciate the value of political activism in public discourse.
 4. accommodate the standpoints of others into their thought processes while appreciating the role that their own standpoint affects their own reasoning on the same topic.
 5. argue for a stance on a topic through clear, effective argumentation.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Unit One: "Liberalism: Not What You Think It Is" includes all lectures from weeks one to four, and the first lecture of week five.

Unit Two: "The Past is Now!" includes the second lecture of week five and all lectures from weeks six to nine.

Unit Three: "Democracy: The Worst Form of Government" includes all lectures from weeks ten to thirteen.

This schedule is subject to change with notice.

Readings for all weeks will be posted on CourseLink and are subject to change with notice.

5.1 Lecture

Week 1

Topic(s): Monday: Course Outline Online-Lecture: NO IN-CLASS LECTURE.
Wednesday: Standpoints

Week 2

Topic(s): The State of Nature

Week 3

Topic(s): The Social Contract

Week 4

Topic(s): Liberty and Duty

Week 5

Topic(s): Monday: Free Speech, I

Wednesday: Racism & Oppression

Week 6

Topic(s): Racism & Oppression

Week 7

Topic(s): **READING WEEK**

Week 8

Topic(s): Privilege: What It Is & Isn't

Week 9

Topic(s): Monday: Equality & Equity
Wednesday: Free Speech, II

Week 10

Topic(s): The Lie of *Vox Populi*

Week 11

Topic(s): Your Guide to Mob Rule

Week 12

Topic(s): Monday: ...except all the others
Wednesday: Quiet Riots, I

Week 13

Topic(s): Monday: Quiet Riots, II
Wednesday: Free Speech, III

5.2 Seminar**Weekly**

Topic(s): Seminars will take place every week starting in **Week 01**. Consult WebAdvisor for the time and place of your seminar.

6 Assessments**6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions**

All assignments will be distributed through CourseLink.

6.2 Assessment Details**Seminar Engagement (15%)**

Date: Ongoing, In Seminar

This assessment has two components: Near-Weekly Assignments (NWAs) and in-seminar participation.

The **NWAs** are short—they must not exceed one properly-formatted page—responses to a question related to the week's reading(s). Each assignment is pass-fail; you must follow the exact specifications of the assignment to pass. They are due most weeks; pay attention to the calendar for details.

Participation will be assessed by your Teaching Assistant on a weekly basis. If you make a meaningful contribution to your seminar, you will receive a bonus point on your NWA for that week. If you do not, you will not. *You must submit a NWA to receive a bonus point on it.*

At the end of the course, you will receive a score on this section equal to the number of points you have achieved—even if that number is greater than fifteen.

Response Paper 1 (25%)

Due: Tue, Feb 12, 11:00 PM

The first paper is a short (1000-word) essay designed to test your competency with the material from the unit "Liberalism: Not What You Think It Is". This is not a research paper; topics will be assigned by the Instructor. This essay is due at **2300** (11:00 PM) on **12 February** and is worth **25%** of your final grade.

The assignment has its own unique specifications that you must follow. These may include, but are not limited to language, citation, and resource requirements. See the assignment for details.

Response Paper 2 (30%)

Due: Tue, Mar 19, 11:00 PM

The second paper is a shortish (1250-word) essay designed to test your competency with the material from the unit "The Past is Now!". This is not a research paper; topics will be assigned by the Instructor. This essay is due at **2300** (11:00 PM) on **19 March** and is worth **30%** of your final grade.

The assignment has its own unique specifications that you must follow. These may include, but are not limited to language, citation, and resource requirements. See the assignment for details.

Final Examination (30%)

The final examination is currently scheduled for **13 April 2019** from **1900 to 2100 (7:00 to 9:00 PM)** at a location to be determined by the helpful folks at the Registrar. I didn't pick the time. Sorry. The time and location is subject to change; check for the latest updates on WebAdvisor. If there is a discrepancy between this Course Outline and WebAdvisor, *WebAdvisor will be taken as correct.*

The final exam will consist of multiple choice and long-form answers. There are no essay questions on the final exam. And yes, *it is cumulative to the beginning of the course.*

7 Course Statements

7.1 Assessments: How to submit your work

You must submit a paper copy of each NWA directly to your Teaching Assistant and the end of your seminar. No electronic submission is necessary or possible, but they must still be word-processed.

You must submit your Response Papers through the dropbox function of CourseLink. No paper copy is required or desired.

You may not submit any work via email, at any time, for any reason.

7.2 Assessments: Electronic submissions

All electronic submissions must be in one of the following file formats: Microsoft Office (docx, doc) (preferred); Portable Document Format (pdf); Rich Text Format (rtf).

Under no circumstances are you to submit work in the following formats: Google Docs (gdoc); Apple Pages (pages); LibreOffice (ott, odt). CourseLink and Turnitin are unable to process these file types.

Any submission that is unable to be processed by CourseLink or Turnitin will not be accepted. This includes corrupted or empty files.

7.3 Assessments: Late penalties and extensions

NWAs are due at the end of your seminar. If you do not hand in a NWA, for any reason, you will receive a **zero** on that NWA.

Response Papers that are late by **less than six hours** (as indicated by the latest date stamp on dropbox) will incur a non-negotiable **5%** penalty. You will know if you are incurring this penalty because dropbox will indicate that your paper is late. Papers late by **six hours or more** are **no longer accepted**; that is, you will receive a **zero** on that assignment.

Extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will generally only be made on medical, humanitarian, or compassionate grounds. I reserve the right to require official documentation for any extension, although I will usually only request such evidence for

repeated or last-minute requests, or for requests of an extension longer than forty-eight hours. You should contact me as soon as you are aware of circumstances which could compromise your ability to submit work on time.

7.4 Assessments: How to format your work

All assignments have their own formatting requirements as part of their specifications. The formatting requirements for all assignments can be found in the course Style Guide. It is your responsibility to know and follow these requirements. Note that the Response Papers must follow **Chicago Style (Notes & Bibliography)** for citations.

7.5 Assessments: Turnitin

This university has adopted Turnitin to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the university.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A note about Originality Scores. When you submit your work to Turnitin, Turnitin will generate an "Originality Score" for your assignment. The Originality Score merely represents the percentage of your paper (by word count) that can be found in other papers in their database. It **does not** indicate how much of your paper is plagiarized. In fact, it makes no judgement about plagiarism at all. There are **no penalties** associated with having an Originality Score of any value. It is up to the Instructor and/or Teaching Assistant to interpret the Originality Score and decide whether any academic misconduct has occurred.

7.6 Engagement: Where to find course-related information

I will use CourseLink extensively. There you will find news items, errata, grades, minor announcements, assignments, the dropbox, and so on. It is your responsibility to check it regularly. If you have a question, you should check there first.

Moderately and highly important announcements will be made in lecture and/or via email. You are responsible for knowing what is going on in the course; the best way to do that is to go to all lectures and seminars, and keep an eye on your email inbox.

7.7 Engagement: Accessing course material

You must get ten out of fifteen questions correct on the Week 01 Introductory Quiz in order to access any of the course material (i.e. lectures, assessments, and so on) from week 02 onwards. This quiz tests on the material from the Course Outline and from the Week 01 Introductory Lecture video. You have unlimited attempts, and there is no penalty for failure other than simply continuing not to have access to the course material. You can find the quiz by navigating to the following page: Course Content > Lectures > Week 01. It is called "Week 01 Introductory Quiz".

You will not get any academic consideration for failing to get access to the course material; that is, it is no different if you miss a deadline because you did not have access to the assignment before the due date than it would be if you had access to the assignment ahead of time and still did not submit one.

7.8 Engagement: Where to find readings, assignments, and lectures

All non-textbook readings are on electronic reserve through the library.

All assignments will be posted in PDF on CourseLink.

All lectures will be posted as non-printable PDFs on CourseLink, usually within forty-eight hours. **Please do not bug me about this. They will be up when they are up.**

7.9 Engagement: In-lecture technology policies

Laptops are allowed in lecture just as long as they are being used for course-related purposes. I reserve the right to take whatever measures necessary to mitigate any problems they cause.

Smartphones have no place in the classroom. Refrain from using them. If it is difficult for you to go through the entire class without interacting with your phone, you should seek help. I reserve the right to remove repeat offenders from the lecture.

You may **not** record lectures.

A note about seminars. Your Teaching Assistant has the authority to adopt whatever policies s/he deems necessary to ensure a productive learning environment in your seminar. Unless s/he has specified otherwise, you should expect your seminars to follow the same policies as the lectures.

7.10 Engagement: How to contact us

The Teaching Assistants and I will hold weekly **office hours**, except for Week 07 or when announced in advance. This is the best time to get personalized, detailed answers to whatever questions you may have. Office hours will be posted in this Course Outline and on the CourseLink homepage for this course.

Outside of office hours, **email** is the official mode of communication. You should always use your Guelph email address for any communication for this course. Please remember that emailing the Instructor or your Teaching Assistant is not like texting your friends. You must remain respectful.

I cannot speak for the Teaching Assistants, but I do not answer any emails marked high priority, high importance, or have the words "URGENT" or "IMPORTANT" in the title. They are deleted without being opened.

A note about response times. If you email one of us during business hours (0900-1700), you should expect a response some time that day. If you email one of us during the evening, you should expect a response by the end of business the following day. If you email one of us on the weekend, you should expect a response by the end of business on Monday at the absolute latest.

7.11 Governance: The Instructor-Teaching Assistant paradigm

This course has an **Instructor** and multiple **Teaching Assistants (TAs)**.

The **Instructor** is responsible for the planning and execution of the course from inception to completion. The Instructor chooses topics, themes, and readings, as well as developing appropriate assessments, rubrics, and course policies. The Instructor develops and delivers most lectures. The Instructor is responsible for ensuring that students are treated in a consistent and fair manner across all seminar sections.

Teaching Assistants are the semi-autonomous seminar leaders and front-line contact between you and the course. TAs develop learning-enhancing activities for seminar time and

have the authority to set policies which ensure effective learning. They also do the bulk of the grading and are responsible for ensuring equitable treatment between students within their seminars.

7.12 Governance: If you are dissatisfied with a grade

Grading is a complicated process and we do not assign grades lightly. Whatever grade you receive is what your TA judges to best reflect the quality of your work, given the assignment's specifications and drawing from their many years of experience.

Your TA will leave you detailed comments about your work. If they are unclear or suggest that your TA has missed something in your paper, then you should contact them about it. If things are still unclear, you should schedule a face-to-face meeting to go over your paper and receive a more detailed rationale for your grade. If the TA deems it appropriate, they may decide, at their discretion, to: revise your grade; regrade the assignment entirely; or, let the grade stand. They will make this decision within twenty-four hours of your meeting, and may consult me for advice.

In most cases, it is inappropriate for me to intervene with grading. However, part of my role is to ensure that grading is consistent and fair across all sections. If and only if you have met with your TA and still believe—not feel—that you are being graded unfairly, then it is appropriate to ask me to look into it. Cases are taken on an individual basis, and revisions are exceedingly rare.

A note about cooling off. As a word of advice, you should only contact someone about your assignment after you have waiting twenty-four hours after receiving your grade. This helps cooler heads prevail.

7.13 Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them.

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>