



PHIL*3230 Theories of Justice

Winter 2021

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 05, 2021

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This is a course in social and political philosophy is the area of philosophy concerned with the morality of major social institutions such as the state, the economy, and the family. This course may engage in the detailed examination of one or more of the following questions: what justifies the state's claim to authority? What are the proper dimensions of individual liberty? What levels of material and social equality are required for a society to be just? These questions will be pursued through reading historical and/or contemporary philosophical texts.

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course will examine what justice means in 21st century Canada. The focus will be on whether Canadian political institutions can be legitimate and just given that Canada is a settler-colonial state, and, if they can, how they must change to move toward justice. Further, what obligations do individuals residing in Canadian territory have in light of historical and ongoing colonialism? To address this question we will review some historical background concerning Canadian political institutions and settler-Indigenous relations, and then read three significant recent works written by leading Indigenous philosophers addressing the Canadian context. Our effort will be to read these texts carefully, attending to how they challenge colonial philosophical assumptions about justice in settler-Indigenous relations.

1.3 Timetable

There is a schedule of readings and due dates on Courselink.

1.4 Final Exam

There will be a take-home final for the course: it will be released on the first day of the examination period (April 15) and is due one week after that (April 22).

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: John Hacker-Wright PhD
Email: jhackerw@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: +1-519-824-4120 x56765
Office: MCKN 330
Office Hours: I am happy to meet with you over Zoom or Teams by appointment. Please contact me via email as I am not checking my voicemail.

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant: Kyle Barbour
Email: kbarbour@uoguelph.ca
Teaching Assistant: Justin Vriend
Email: jvriend@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

The following textbooks are required. Please see the Schedule of Readings and Due Dates for further information on acquiring them.

Glen Sean Coulthard, *Red Skins, White Masks*

Bob Joseph, *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act*

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *As We Have Always Done*

Dale Turner, *This is Not a Peace Pipe*

4 Learning Outcomes

We will aim to achieve the following goals in this course, which fit within a framework for the Bachelor of Arts approved by the University of Guelph Senate.

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. ...identify, comprehend, and evaluate philosophical arguments concerning politics in philosophical texts (literacy).
 2. ...better understand and articulate your own commitments concerning justice and have a deepened understanding of your political obligations (professional and ethical behavior).
 3. ... arrive at your own reasoned evaluation of the views that we will be discussing (creative and critical thinking).
 4. ...communicate your philosophical views on these issues to others clearly and concisely (communication).
 5. ...thoroughly understand some key issues in contemporary political philosophy (depth and breadth of understanding).
-

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Please see Schedule of Readings and Due Dates for a class-by-class schedule of discussion topics.

6 Assessments

Our assessments will test your understanding of the assigned texts. The purpose of our discussion meetings will be to facilitate your understanding by highlighting important philosophical concepts and arguments.

6.1 Assessment Details

Quizzes (60%)

There will be four quizzes, one at the end of each unit in the course. Each of these quizzes will be worth 15% of your grade.

Format: there will be at least one essay question per quiz and there may be some multiple-choice questions. It is imperative to have completed the readings before beginning the quiz, each of which must be completed within one hour of the start time. See Schedule of

Readings and Due Dates.

Take Home Final (40%)

The final will consist of two essay questions, each to be answered in about 1500 words. The exam will be released at the beginning of the exam period (April 15) and due one week after (April 22).

7 Course Statements

7.1 Late Policy

Quizzes are due at the appointed time (see Schedule of Readings and Due Dates). If you are unable to complete the quiz by the appointed time you should contact the instructor. Unless there is a ground for academic consideration, a late penalty of no more than 5% per 24 hours past the due date may be assessed. The final exam must be submitted by the due date.

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>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

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

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of

Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic 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>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.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.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

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>

8.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

8.10 Illness

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
