

Syllabus for POLSC/PHIL2: Introduction to Political Philosophy

Course Information

Semester & Year: Spring 2020

Course ID & Section #: POLSC2 (E8080)/PHIL2 (E0933): Introduction to Political Philosophy

Instructor's name: Ryan Emenaker

Day/Time: M/W 1:15-2:40

Location: HU 115

Number of units: 3

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: HU 108F

Office hours: M-Th 12:00-1:00

Phone number: 476-4306

Email address: ryan-emenaker@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

Textbook title: Listed in Main Section of the Syllabus

Catalog Description

A course examining the key texts and political thinkers of western political thought from Plato to the present. Students will be introduced to: (1) historical and contemporary debates about the most desirable cultural values, political regimes, institutional forms, economic systems, and laws to achieve "the good life;" and (2) political theorists' answers to contentious questions about the nature of justice, freedom, and equality.

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. Identify the core concepts and contributions of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill and Marx.
2. Compare and contrast modern political ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, Marxism, and feminism.
3. Apply the perspectives of thinkers from different eras to contemporary political problems.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Listed in Main Section of the Syllabus

Now the Real Syllabus Begins!

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POLSC 2/PHIL2: Introduction to Political Philosophy Spring 2020 Syllabus

Course Description: What is justice? What is freedom? What is the nature of the best regime? When is the exercise of political authority legitimate? This course will explore these questions, among others, which lie at the core of political theory. We will be reading the canonical work of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and Mill, as well as contemporary scholarship by authors including Berlin, Rawls, Novak, Cohen, and Okin.

In this class significant attention will be given to thinking about questions with no clear answers, and which have perplexed scholars throughout all of human history. Students are encouraged to raise questions at any time. The professor does not have all the answers; you should feel free to question and challenge me.

Meeting Times/Locations: M/W 1:15-2:40 HU 115 (POLSC2 E8080) (PHIL2 E0933) 3 Units.

Requirements: Students are expected to have read the texts thoroughly before attending class. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be required to write two papers, of 5-7 pages in length (1800-2200 words), ten Reading Analyses (1-2 pages each), and complete a take-home final exam. The first paper topic will be assigned on Monday, March 2 and is due on **Sunday, March 15th at 9PM**. The second paper topic will be assigned on Wednesday, April 1 and is due on **Sunday, April 12th at 9PM**.

Grade Distribution:

Paper 1: 20%
Paper 2: 20%
Reading Responses: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Participation: 20%

Grading Scale:

A	= 93.0 – 100%
A-	= 90.0 – 92.9%
B+	= 86.6 – 89.9 %
B	= 83.0– 86.5%
B-	= 80.0 – 82.9%
C+	= 75.0 – 79.9%
C	= 70.0 – 74.9%
D	= 60.0 – 69.9%
F	= 0 – 59.9%

An “incomplete” grade will not be given except under extraordinary circumstances.

Texts for Purchase:

Alexander, Michelle *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (978-1595586438) The New Press.
Cohen, GA *Why Not Socialism?* (978-0691143613) Princeton University Press.
Hobbes, Thomas *Leviathan* (0-87220-177-5) Hackett Classics.
Kropotkin, Petr, *Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution* (978-0-9886685-5-3) Ingram Book Co.
Locke, John *The Selected Political Writings* (978-0393964516) W.W. Norton.
Mill, John Stuart *On Liberty, Utilitarianism & Other Essays* (978-0199670802) Oxford World's Classics.
Plato, *Five Dialogues 2nd edition* (978-0872206335) Hackett. [pdfs of *The Apology* and *The Crito* on Canvas]
Rousseau, Jean-Jacques *The Basic Political Writings 2nd edition* (978-1603846738) Hackett Publishing.
Sandel, Michael. J. *Justice: A Reader* 1st edition (978-0195335125) Oxford University Press.
Marx, Karl & Friedrich Engels *The Communist Manifesto* (978-0717802418) International Publishers Co.

Instructor Expectations A considerable amount of reading, and thinking are necessary to properly prepare for each class. To receive a passing grade, a minimum of 3 to 4 hours will be required to prepare for each session. Additional time will be needed to complete the essays, Reading Analyses, and the Final. Expect to put in about 9 hours-per-week for this class.

Canvas- Be certain that you know how to use Canvas, and that you are able to check your CR e-mail. I will be communicating to the class by e-mail, and through Canvas, with some frequency; I will assume you check your CR e-mail at least once a day. Canvas will be used to post readings, lecture notes, send out announcements, and to make changes to the course outline. If you are not able to use Canvas, or are not receiving messages from me, do not wait to fix this problem.

Assignments & Grading:

1. Class Participation is 20% of your final grade and vital for your success in this class. I do not accept excuses for missed participation; you either participate or you don't, and you can't participate if you're not in class. Participation in this course means taking an active role in class discussions, group-work, in-class written assignments, and completing all assigned readings, and other assigned homework.

If you fail to attend class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from one of your colleagues. If you miss a handout, most are on posted on Canvas. For those that are not, ask a colleague if you may copy theirs. I encourage everyone to exchange contact information with at least two others for these purposes.

2. Reading Analyses are written pieces to 10 of the required readings. Do not attempt to summarize the entire chapter or article. Instead, pick a quote, theme, or idea from one of the assigned readings for that week, and then (1) write 1-2 paragraphs summarizing the author's intended meaning and (2) write 1-2 paragraphs describing your reactions/analysis to/of the quote or theme. I do not simply want to know what the authors said; I want to know what YOU think about what they said. A sample reading analysis is included on Canvas; please read this sample a couple of times to get a sense of what I expect. Also read the section labeled "Mistakes that Drive Me Crazy" at the end of the article titled "How to Write a 5 Paragraph Essay."

You must be responding to readings assigned from the previous two class sessions. You may only turn in one per week; absolutely no excuse--no matter how valid--will allow you to turn in more than one per week. Since you only need to turn in 10 for the entire semester you are already allowed to "miss" Reading Analyses for 4 weeks of the semester. If you miss more than that--no matter the reason--then you do not deserve to receive full credit for this portion of the class. Extra credit will not be given for turning in more than 10.

These writings are designed to get you thinking about the readings we do throughout the semester, they reinforce classroom discussion and sharpen your analytical skills. *Each response piece should be at least one **typed page**. Due at the start of class!!! No late or e-mailed response pieces will be accepted!!!*

3. Two Essays. Students will be required to write two papers, of 5-7 pages (1800-2200 words) in length. The first paper topic will be assigned on Monday, March 2 and is due on Sunday, March 15th at 9PM. The second paper topic will be assigned on Wednesday, April 1 and is due on Sunday, April 12th at 9PM. You will be graded on the originality, insightfulness of your thesis, and on how well you use course materials to defend your argument.

4. Final Exam, we will do an in-class review for the Final during the Final Week of the Semester. The specific details of the Final will be distributed at that time.

Course Outline, Readings, and Due Dates Subject to Change at Instructors Discretion
(Changes will be announced in class and/or on Canvas)

POLSC 2/PHIL 2: Intro. to Political Philosophy

Course Schedule

Wednesday, January 22	<u>Introduction</u> . What is Political Theory/Political Philosophy?
Monday, January 27	<u>Lecture One</u> . Individual vs. Collective Obligations: Plato, <i>Apology</i> . “Sample Reading Response” & “How to Write a 5 Paragraph Essay” (Canvas)
Wednesday, January 29	<u>Lecture Two</u> . Individual vs. Collective Obligations: Plato, <i>Crito</i> . Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (Canvas).
Monday, February 3	<u>Lecture Three</u> . The Sovereign State: Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , author’s intro. (pp. 3-5), chapters 5-6, 13.
Wednesday, February 5	<u>Lecture Four</u> . The Sovereign State: Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chapters 14-15, 17-20.
Monday, February 10	<u>Lecture Five</u> . The Sovereign State: Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chapters 21, 26, 29-30, & pp. 243-4.
Wednesday, February 12	<u>Lecture Six</u> . Finish Hobbes. What about No State?: Emma Goldman “Anarchism: What it Really Stands For?”
Monday, February 17	No Class
Wednesday, February 19	<u>Lecture Seven</u> . What about No State?: Kropotkin <i>Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution</i> , Introduction, Chapter 7, 8, Conclusion.
Monday, February 24	<u>Lecture Eight</u> . A Limited Sovereign, Constitutional Government: Locke, <i>Second Treatises on Government</i> , Ch. I-IX.
Wednesday, February 26	<u>Lecture Nine</u> . A Limited Sovereign, Constitutional Government: Locke, <i>Second Treatises on Government</i> , Ch. X-XIX; Declaration of Independence (Canvas).
Monday, March 2	<u>Lecture Ten</u> . Summarize First part of Semester. First Paper Topics Assigned (Due March 15th).
Wednesday, March 4	<u>Lecture Eleven</u> . Democracy & Participation: Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> .
Monday, March 9	<u>Lecture Twelve</u> . Democracy & Participation: Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , Books I and II.
Wednesday, March 11	<u>Lecture Thirteen</u> . Democracy & Participation: Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , Books III and IV; Declaration of the Rights of Man (Canvas).

Monday, March 16 No Class; Spring Break
Wednesday, March 18 No Class; Spring Break

- Monday, March 23 Lecture Fourteen. The Greatest Good: Mill, *Utilitarianism*. (Focus on Ch. 2, 4 & 5 and Skim Ch. 1 & 3.)
- Wednesday, March 25 Lecture Fifteen. The Greatest Good: Mill, *On Liberty*, Ch. 1 and 2;
- Monday, March 23 Lecture Sixteen. The Greatest Good: Mill, *On Liberty*, Ch. 3-5.
- Wednesday, March 25 Lecture Seventeen. Marx & Engels *The Communist Manifesto*
- Monday, March 30 Lecture Eighteen. Marx & Engels *The Communist Manifesto* Con't
- Wednesday, April 1 **Second Paper Topics Assigned (Due April 12th).**
- Monday, April 6 Lecture Nineteen. Lecture Eighteen. Positive & Negative Freedom: Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty."
- Wednesday, April 8 Meetings for Second Paper.
- Monday, April 13 Lecture Twenty. Rawls, "Justice as Fairness" in Chapter 7 of *Justice: A Reader*
- Wednesday, April 15 Lecture Twenty-one. Novak, *Anarchy, State, & Utopia* (read all of Chapter 8 in *Justice: A Reader*
- Monday, April 20 Lecture Twenty-two. GA Cohen, *Why Not Socialism?*
- Wednesday, April 22 Lecture Twenty-four. Susan Okin, "On Justice and The Family" (Canvas).
- Monday, April 27 Lecture Twenty-four. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, Intro & Ch. 1
- Wednesday, April 29 Lecture Twenty-five. Michelle Alexander *The New Jim Crow*, Ch. 2-4
- Monday, May 4 Lecture Twenty-six. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*, Ch. 5-6.
- Wednesday, May 6 Conclusion. **Questions for Final Distributed.**

MAY 11-15 FINALS WEEK