

## Syllabus

# POLSC/PHIL2: Introduction to Political Philosophy

### Course Information

**Semester & Year: Fall 2022**

Course ID & Section #: **POLSC 2 (E3543) /PHIL 2 (E3542)**

Instructor's name: **Ryan Emenaker, Ph.D.**

Course units: 3

### Instructor Contact Information

Office location: Online only

Office hours: By appointment Online via email or Zoom.

Phone number: use email or Canvas Messenger

Email address: ryan-emenaker@redwoods.edu

### 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.

### Accessibility

College of the Redwoods is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students \(DSPS\)](#). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

If you are taking online classes DSPS will email approved accommodations for distance education classes to your instructor. In the case of face-to-face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the needed accommodation so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last minute arrangements or post-test adjustments usually cannot be accommodated.

### Student Support

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

### Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor

determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

## Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [College Catalog](#) and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

## Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

## Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students have the ability to have an alternate first name and pronouns to appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. This does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

## Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email [its@redwoods.edu](mailto:its@redwoods.edu) or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://webapps.redwoods.edu/tutorial/>

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

## Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)
- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Professor Ryan Emenaker, Ph.D.

[ryan-emenaker@redwoods.edu](mailto:ryan-emenaker@redwoods.edu)

use email or the messaging function in Canvas to contact me

Office Hours: By appointment Online via email or Zoom

**POLSC 2/PHIL2: Introduction to Political Philosophy**  
**Fall 2022**  
**Syllabus**

Course Description: What is justice? What is freedom? What is the best government? Why should I obey the law? When is 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.

**Meeting Times/Locations:** T/Th 1:15-2:40 CA 113 (POLSC2 E3543) (PHIL2 E3542) 3 Units.

Requirements: Students are expected to have read the texts thoroughly before attending class. Regular attendance is mandatory. Students are 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, October 4<sup>th</sup> and is due on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 PM. The second paper topic will be assigned on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and is due on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 11 PM.

**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:**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* (978-0872206335) Hackett. [pdfs of *The Apology* and *The Crito* on Canvas]

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques *The Basic Political Writings 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, for Discussion Forums, submitting assignments, 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.

\* Online Discussion Kickoffs via Canvas. For each class session where we are going over readings and content, there is a "Discussion Kickoff" Discussion Forum where you are to post some initial thoughts or questions about the readings. This will help stimulate and guide classroom discussion; these are especially important since we will be attending class masked and this often makes it hard to ask the questions you would like about the readings. I am giving you 4 freebees to miss throughout the semester, but for all other Discussion Kickoffs you are expected to post.

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 5 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 Lectures and Discussions and sharpen your analytical skills. *Each response piece should be at least one double-spaced typed page (approx. 300-500 words). It must be submitted through Canvas as a Word Doc. No late or e-mailed analysis pieces will be accepted!!! You must have at least one turned in by Sunday, Sept. 11 or I may drop you from the course; however, you should feel free to turn one in before this.*

3. Two Essays. Students are required to write two papers, of 5-7 pages (1800-2200 words) in length. The first paper topic will be assigned on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> and is due on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 PM. The second paper topic will be assigned on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and is due on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 11 PM. 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 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

Tuesday, August 23	<u>Introduction</u> . What is Political Theory/Political Philosophy?
Thursday, August 25	<u>Lecture One</u> . Individual vs. Collective Obligations: Plato, <i>Apology</i> . “Sample Reading Analysis” & “How to Write a 5 Paragraph Essay” (Canvas)
Tuesday, August 30	<u>Lecture Two</u> . Individual vs. Collective Obligations: Plato, <i>Crito</i> . Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (Canvas).
Thursday, September 1	<u>Lecture Three</u> . The Sovereign State: Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , author’s intro. (pp. 3-5), chapters 5-6, 13.
Tuesday, September 6	<u>Lecture Four</u> . The Sovereign State: Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chapters 14-15, 17-20
Thursday, September 8	<u>Lecture Five</u> . The Sovereign State: Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chapters 21, 26, 29-30, & pp. 243-4.
Tuesday, September 13	<u>Lecture Six</u> . Finish Hobbes. What about No State?: David Williams, “What Would Hobbes Say about the Pandemic?...” Emma Goldman “Anarchism: What it Really Stands For?”
Thursday, September 15	<b>No Class</b> ; Attending American Political Science Association Conference
Tuesday, September 20	<u>Lecture Seven</u> . What about No State?: Kropotkin <i>Mutual Aid: A Factor of Evolution</i> , Introduction, Chapter 7, 8, Conclusion.
Thursday, September 22	<u>Lecture Eight</u> . A Limited Sovereign, Constitutional Government: Locke, <i>Second Treatises on Government</i> , Ch. I-IX. Declaration of Independence (Canvas).
Tuesday, September 27	<u>Lecture Nine</u> . A Limited Sovereign, Constitutional Government: Locke, <i>Second Treatises on Government</i> , Ch. X-XIX;
Thursday, September 29	Class Catch Up Day
Tuesday, October 4	<u>Lecture Ten</u> . Summarize First Part of Semester. Create Essay Questions for First Paper.
Thursday, October 6	<u>Lecture Eleven</u> . Democracy & Participation: Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> . <b>First Paper Topics Assigned (Due Oct. 19 11PM )</b> .
Tuesday, October 11	<u>Lecture Twelve</u> . Democracy & Participation: Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , Books I and II.

Thursday, October 13	<u>Lecture Thirteen.</u> Democracy & Participation: Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , Books III and IV; Declaration of the Rights of Man (Canvas).
Tuesday, October 18	Discuss First Papers Prior to Submissions
Thursday, October 20	<u>Lecture Fourteen.</u> The Greatest Good: Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> . (Focus on Ch. 2, 4 & 5 and Skim Ch. 1 & 3.)
Tuesday, October 25	<u>Lecture Fifteen.</u> The Greatest Good: Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 1 and 2;
Thursday, October 27	<u>Lecture Sixteen.</u> The Greatest Good: Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Ch. 3-5.
Tuesday, November 1	<u>Lecture Seventeen.</u> Marx & Engels <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
Thursday, November 3	<u>Lecture Eighteen.</u> Marx & Engels <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> Con't
Tuesday, November 8	<u>Lecture Nineteen.</u> <u>Lecture Eighteen.</u> Positive & Negative Freedom: Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty."
Thursday, November 10	<b>Second Paper Topics Assigned (Due Nov. 20, 11PM).</b>
Tuesday, November 15	Individual Meetings for Second Paper
Thursday, November 17	Individual Meetings for Second Paper
	Tuesday, November 22 No Class; Fall Break Thursday, November 24 No Class; Fall Break
Tuesday, November 29	<u>Lecture Twenty.</u> Rawls, "Justice as Fairness" in Chapter 7 of <i>Justice: A Reader</i>
Thursday, December 1	<u>Lecture Twenty-one.</u> Novak, <i>Anarchy, State, &amp; Utopia</i> (read all of Chapter 8 in <i>Justice: A Reader</i> )
Tuesday, December 6	<u>Lecture Twenty-two.</u> Susan Okin, "On Justice and The Family" (Canvas).
Thursday, December 8	Conclusion. <b>Questions for Final Distributed.</b>

### December 12-16 FINALS WEEK