

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY PHIL 30900

Spring 2012

T & Th 11:00am-12:15pm NAC 4/161

Professor Jennifer M. Morton
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Office: NAC 5/136C Phone: x7637
Office Hours: T 12.30-1.30pm, Th 9.30-10:30am

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We are social beings that thrive in communities, yet we have different values, moral commitments, and opinions on a diversity of matters. Questions in political philosophy center on how political institutions and practices should be organized to allow us to live together despite these disagreements. This course will serve as an introduction to social and political philosophy, including historical figures such as Mill, Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Marx, and Rousseau, as well as contemporary figures, such as Rawls, Nozick, Sandel, and Okin.

PREREQUISITES: An introductory level philosophy course (Phil 10200, Phil 30000, Phil 20100, or Phil 20200).

READING: There are two books required for this course Jonathan Wolff's [An Introduction to Political Philosophy](#) (Oxford University Press, 2006) and [The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: Essential Readings: Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary Texts](#) (eds. A. Bailey, S. Brennan, W. Kymlicka, et al Broadview Press, 2012)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Every Tuesday, you will be required to turn in a 1-2 page polished reading response based on the assigned reading and a prompt I will post on Blackboard. Be ready to share your reading response with the rest of class when called upon to do so. You are responsible for one in-class exam and one paper during the course of the term (6-8 pages). Most importantly, you are expected to attend every meeting and actively participate in class discussion.

11 Reading Responses (1-2 pp)	25%
Exam	20%
Paper Draft	5%
Paper (6-8 pages)	30%
In Class Activities/Quizzes	5%
Participation	10%
Attendance	5%

A	95-99%
A-	90-94%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
B-	75-79%
C+	70-74%
C	65-69%
C-	60-64%
D	51-59%
F	0-50

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: **NO LATE Reading responses** will be accepted (no exceptions!). You will, however, be allowed to make-up 1 reading response on the last day of class. Late papers will only be accepted in cases of emergency AND arrangements must be made with me at least **48 hours in advance**. No exams will be issued after the exam date, except for in extreme medical circumstances with a doctor's note.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: A printed copy **AND** an electronic copy (via Safe Assign) should be submitted.

ATTENDANCE: **Regular attendance is required.** You will be granted up to **3 excused absences** (medical, family emergencies, etc) throughout the term, any absences above that number will affect your grade significantly. If you arrive **late to class**, you **must** contribute to the class discussion in the form of a **thoughtful** question or comment in order to count as having attended the class.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will be subject to penalties in conformity with the College's policy on Academic Integrity. (http://www1.ccny.cuny.edu/facultystaff/provost/policies_integrity.cfm)

LEARNING COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course you should: (1) Improve your ability to read philosophy, that is, to identify the thesis of a piece of philosophical writing and the arguments or evidence adduced in support of that thesis. (2) Be able to identify and debate central issues in social and political philosophy. (3) Be able to develop and argue for a critical position in a philosophy paper that engages with a central issue in social and political philosophy.

As part of the College's General Education Curriculum, this course is designed to satisfy the requirements for a *Logical-Philosophical Perspective* course. Students successfully completing this course will develop the following proficiencies: will have had multiple experiences in communicating ideas in writing and speaking by completing assignments totaling at least 3500 words of writing, will have had experiences that emphasize analytic and/or philosophical reasoning to critically examine fundamental questions of ethics, justice and epistemology, and will have had multiple experiences in finding information and evaluating the reliability of this information.

Date	Reading Assignment	Writing Assignment	
T	1/29	Introduction of IPP * (pp. 1-6)	
THE STATE OF NATURE			
Th	1/31	Ch. 1 of IPP (pp. 6-17), Hobbes, <u>Leviathan</u> Ch. 13-15.3 (BA pp. 258-267)	
T	2/05	Hobbes, <u>Leviathan</u> Ch. 17-19 (BA pp. 276-289)	R. Response #1
Th	2/07	Ch. 1 of IPP (pp. 17-23), Locke, <u>Second Treatise</u> Ch. 2-4 (BA pp. 333-345)	
T	2/12	No Class	
Th	2/14	Ch. 1 of IPP (pp. 24-33), Rousseau, <u>Discourse</u> Preface (BA pp.422-426), Part I (BA pp. 430-432, 435-44)[Tuesday Schedule]	R. Response #2
T	2/19	Rousseau, <u>Discourse</u> Part II (BA pp. 441-451)	R. Response #3
Th	2/21	Class Canceled/Take Home Quiz	
JUSTIFYING THE STATE			
T	2/26	Ch. 2 of IPP (pp. 34-48), Locke, <u>Second Treatise</u> Ch. 8-14, (BA pp. 356-375)	R. Response #4
Th	2/28	Ch. 2 of IPP (pp. 48-55), Mill, <u>Utilitarianism</u> Ch. 2-5 (BA pp. 658-668)	
T	3/05	Ch. 2 of IPP (pp. 55-61), Hume, <u>Of the Original Contract</u> (BA pp.403-412)	R. Response #5
Th	3/07	Exam Review	
T	3/12	Exam	
WHO SHOULD RULE?			
Th	3/14	Ch. 3 of IPP (pp. 62-74), Plato, <u>The Republic</u> (BA pp. 29-45)	
T	3/19	Plato, <u>The Republic</u> (BA pp. 45-62)	R. Response #6
Th	3/21	Ch. 3 of IPP (pp. 74-87), Rousseau, <u>The Social Contract</u> (BA pp. 470-490, 504-507)	
T	3/26	SPRING BREAK	
Th	3/28		
T	4/02		
Th	4/04	Ch. 3 of IPP (pp. 87-103), Madison, <u>Federalist Paper #10</u> (BA pp.552-555)	
THE PLACE OF LIBERTY			
T	4/09	Ch. 4 of IPP (pp.104-128), Mill, <u>On Liberty</u> (BA pp. 627-640)	R. Response #7
Th	4/11	Ch. 4 of IPP (pp.128-132), Mill, <u>On Liberty</u> (BA pp. 640-650)	
T	4/16	Marx, <u>The Communist Manifesto</u> (BA pp. 717-727)	R. Response #8
THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY			
Th	4/18	Ch. 5 of IPP (pp. 133-143) Locke, <u>Second Treatise</u> Ch. 5 (BA , pp. 338-345)	
T	4/23	Peer Review	Paper Draft
Th	4/25	Ch. 5 of IPP (pp. 143-152), Marx <u>Estranged Labor</u> (BA pp. 692-698)	
T	4/30	Ch. 5 of IPP (pp. 152-168) Rawls, <u>A Theory of Justice</u> (pp. 862-872)	R. Response #9
Th	5/02	Rawls, <u>A Theory of Justice</u> (pp. 872-890)	Paper Due
T	5/07	Ch. 5 of IPP (pp. 168-176) Nozick, <u>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</u> (BA pp. 907-924)	R. Response #10
INDIVIDUALISM, FEMINISM, MULTICULTURALISM			
Th	5/09	Ch. 6 of IPP (pp.177-182), Sandel, <u>The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self</u> (BA pp. 944-952)	
T	5/14	Ch. 6 of IPP (pp. 182-186), Okin, <u>Justice, Gender, and the Family</u> , (BA pp. 954-966)	R. Response #11
Th	5/16	Ch. 6 of IPP (pp.186-199), Kymlicka, <u>Multicultural Citizenship</u> (BA pp. 994-1010)	R. Response Make-Up/Optional Paper Rewrite

***IPP** designates Introduction to Political Philosophy by Wolff; **BA** designates The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: Essential Readings