

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 Hours: T & Th 12.30-1.30pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** We are also 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).

**REQUIREMENTS:** You are required to have taken **one** introductory level philosophy course or a first-year philosophy seminar in order to enroll in this course.

**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:** Almost every Tuesday, at the beginning of class, you will turn in a 1-2 page reading response. You are responsible for one in-class exam and one paper during the course of the term (5-6 pages). Most importantly, you are expected to attend every meeting and actively participate in class discussion.

11 Reading Responses (1-2 pp)	25%
Exam #1	25%
Paper #1 (5-6pages)	35%
In Class Activities/Quizzes	5%
Participation	5%
Attendance	5%

**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.

**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 will be called on to contribute to the class discussion upon your arrival.

**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](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) Improve your ability to write philosophy, that is, to present a claim in clear terms and to defend it in a logically coherent manner. (3) Be able to reconstruct and debate central issues 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 pp. 1-6 ( <u>IPP</u> )	
THE STATE OF NATURE			
Th	1/31	Hobbes <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 1 of <u>IPP</u> , pp. 6-17	
T	2/05	Hobbes	R. Response #1
Th	2/07	Locke <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 1 of <u>IPP</u> , pp. 17-23	
T	2/12	Locke	R. Response #2
Th	2/14	Rousseau <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 1 of <u>IPP</u> , pp. 24-29	
JUSTIFYING THE STATE			
T	2/19	Mill <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 2 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	R. Response #3
Th	2/21	Mill	
T	2/26	Hume <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 2 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	R. Response #4
Th	2/28	Hume	
T	3/05	Hume	R. Response #5
WHO SHOULD RULE?			
Th	3/07	Plato <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 3 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	
T	3/12	Plato	R. Response #6
Th	3/14	Rousseau <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 3 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	
T	3/19	Berlin, Two Concepts of Liberty <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 3 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	R. Response #7
Th	3/21	Exam	
T	3/26	SPRING BREAK	
Th	3/28		
T	4/02		
THE PLACE OF LIBERTY			
Th	4/04	Mill <u>BA</u> pp., On Liberty, Chapter 4 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	
T	4/09	Mill	R. Response #8
Th	4/11	Marx <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 4 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	
T	4/16	Marx	R. Response #9
Th	4/18	Sandel <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 4 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	
THE DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY			
T	4/23	Rawls <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 5 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	Paper #1 Draft
Th	4/25	Rawls	
T	4/30	Nozick <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 5 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	R. Response #10
Th	5/02	Nozick	
T	5/07	Marx/Engels <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 5 of <u>IPP</u>	Paper #1 Due
INDIVIDUALISM, FEMINISM, MULTICULTURALISM			
Th	5/09	Okin <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 6 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	
T	5/14	Kymlicka <u>BA</u> pp., Chapter 6 of <u>IPP</u> , pp.	R. Response #11
Th	5/16	Wrap-Up	R. Response Make-Up

\*IPP designates Introduction to Political Philosophy by Wolff

\* BA designates The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: Essential Readings