

# PHIL/POLI/ECON 384.002

## PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS GATEWAY

Professors Ryan Doody & Jennifer M. Morton  
T/Th 12:30p -1:45pm  
Caldwell Hall 105  
Spring 2020  
3 Credit Hours

<b>INSTRUCTORS:</b>	Ryan Doody	Jennifer Morton
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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	T 11am-12pm, W 1-2pm	T 2pm-3pm, Th 11am-12pm
<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b>	Caldwell Hall 11	Caldwell Hall 215C

**DESCRIPTION:** This interdisciplinary course provides an overview of theoretical and applied topics at the intersection of philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE). Each week combines a theoretical topic with a matching applied topic. Theoretical topics include game theory, property, liberty, collective action, markets, justice, exploitation, public choice, poverty and inequality. We will read, among others, Aquinas, Locke, Smith, Marx, Mill, Rawls, and Nozick. The applied topics are topics in the contemporary public debate, such as segregation, automation and unemployment, climate change, dieselgate, effective altruism, welfare programs, equality of opportunity, tax reform, nudge, prisons & race, boycotts & bathrooms, gerrymandering, and healthcare. The aim of this course is to introduce you to classical sources in PPE and equip you with the skills to inform yourself about contemporary affairs through blogs and newspaper articles.

**RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITE:** 1 ECON course.

All seats reserved for declared PPE minors. To officially declare the PPE minor, contact your academic advisor for assistance. This particular section is not co-convened, and will meet all semester at UNC.

**READING:** All readings will be available on Sakai.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

2 Assignments (1-2 pp)	5%
8 Reading Responses (1-2pp)	30%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	5%

**COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES:** This course is intended to introduce you to key concepts in PPE such as: game theory, property, markets success and limitations, distributive justice and public choice. By the end of this course, you will be able to explain and apply these key ideas. These are the key ideas that will allow you to get the most out of your PPE minor and to prepare you for the PPE Capstone.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** Questions for assignments will be posted 5 days before they are due. These assignments are required and will be graded.

**READING RESPONSES:** Questions for reading responses will be posted 5 days before they are due. 10 questions will be posted in total, you only need to complete 8 during the term. Reading responses that are turned in on time, show that you have read the material, and demonstrate an honest attempt at answering the question posed will be given full

credit. Reading responses that are late, demonstrate you have not read the material carefully, or do not answer the question will receive no credit.

**EXAMS:** There will be a midterm and a final exam. Optional review sessions will be held before each. These exams are meant to allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course material.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Students who are persistently absent are more likely to do poorly in class and fail. We strongly recommend that you make attending class a priority. You will be granted three absences (no questions asked), but any absences above that number will have an effect on your performance in the course. You can participate in class in many ways: you can ask a question during class, write us an e-mail with a question or idea, you can come to office hours, or you can attend a PPE event. All of these forms of participation count towards your participation grade.

**PROFESSOR AVAILABILITY AND COMMUNICATION:** We are available during office hours to talk about **anything** related to this course. Please do not hesitate to stop by, even if you do not have a specific question. If you cannot attend office hours, make an appointment to meet at a different time. If you're nervous about coming to office hours alone, bring a friend! It is extremely important to your success in this course and in college that you communicate with us whenever you are confused, need help, or have questions.

**ELECTRONICS:** Research shows that the use of electronics decreases your capacity to understand, remember, and learn. It also distracts other students. We discourage you from using electronics in class for anything other than reading along or taking a few notes. We will ask you to close your laptops when we think the class requires it. If the use of electronics is interfering with the course, we reserve the right to amend this policy. If you have an emergency and need to use your phone to deal with it, please feel free to step outside of the classroom and return when you are ready to participate in class fully.

**HONOR CODE:** All students are expected to follow the guidelines of the UNC honor code. In particular, students are expected to refrain from "lying, cheating, or stealing" in an academic context (but it's also probably good to avoid doing these things in general). If you are unsure about which actions violate that honor code, please consult [honor.unc.edu](https://honor.unc.edu). Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Always cite any resource that you use (including friends with whom you have worked if cooperation is permitted on an assignment). Do not reuse papers written for past classes. The internet has made it easier than ever before to catch this sort of thing, so (moral reasons aside) it's not a particularly wise idea.

**ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES & SERVICE:** UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us>

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES:** CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short- or long-term needs. Go to their website: [www.caps.unc.edu](https://www.caps.unc.edu) or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Service building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

**MODIFICATIONS TO SYLLABUS:** We reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that you can adjust your schedules.

Class Date	Topic Covered	Reading that must be completed before class	Assignment due	
<b>Game Theory</b>				
Th	1/9	Introduction to Games/Fish Game	None	
T	1/14	PDs	Thomas Hobbes, Selections from <u>Leviathan</u>	
Th	1/16	Game Theory	Osborne, <u>An Introduction to Game Theory</u> , 2.1-2.5	
T	1/21	Game Theory continued	Osborne, <u>An Introduction to Game Theory</u> , 2.6-2.7	
Th	1/23	Game Theory continued	Weatherson, <u>Lecture Notes on Game Theory</u> , ch. 3	Assignment 1
T	1/28	Game Theory continued	Schelling, excerpts from <u>The Strategy of Conflict</u>	
Th	1/30	Climate Change and Game Theory	James Dyke, "Can game theory help solve the problem of climate change?"	Assignment 2
<b>Property</b>				
T	2/4	The Utility of Property	David Hume, "Of Justice and Property"	
Th	2/6	Property as Natural Right	John Locke, "Of Property"	Reading Response (RR) 1
T	2/11	Critique of Property	Karl Marx, "Primitive Accumulation" & (with Engels) "The Capitalist Manifesto"	
Th	2/13	The Right to Exclude	David Schmidtz, "Institution of Property"	RR 2
T	2/18	Reparations	Derrick Darby, "Reparations and Racial Inequality"	
<b>Market Success</b>				
Th	2/20	Division of Labor	Adam Smith, "Of the Division of Labor"	RR 3
T	2/25	The Efficiency of the Open Market	Friedrich Hayek, "The Use of Knowledge in Society"	
Th	2/27	Free Exchange	Allan Gibbard, "What's Morally Special About Free Exchange?"	RR 4
T	3/3	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
<b>Public Goods</b>				
Th	3/5	Public Goods	Tyler Cowen, "Public Goods"	RR 5
T	3/17	Education & Equality	Debra Satz, "Equality, Adequacy, and Education for Citizenship"	
<b>Distributive Justice</b>				
Th	3/19	Utilitarianism	John Stuart Mill, Selections from <u>Utilitarianism</u>	RR 6
T	3/24	Justice as Fairness	John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness"	
Th	3/26	Libertarianism	Robert Nozick, Selections from <u>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</u>	RR 7
T	3/31	Defense of Socialism	G.E. Cohen. "Robert Nozick and Wilt Chamberlain: How patterns preserve liberty"	
Th	4/2	Healthcare Rationing	Cases	RR 8
<b>Public Choice</b>				
T	4/7	What is Public Choice?	Gary Becker, "The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior"	
Th	4/9	Understanding Politics through Economics	Anthony Downs, "An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy"	RR 9
T	4/14	Voting Theories	RadioLab "Tweak the Vote" (Podcast)	
Th	4/16	Paternalist Solutions to Poverty	Esther Duflo, "Human Values and the Fight Against Poverty"	RR 10
T	4/21	Should medications be regulated?	Jessica Flannagan, "Pharmaceutical Freedom"	
Th	4/23		TBD	
F	5/1	<b>Final Exam</b>		