

## Political Philosophy

Lecture Time: TBA

Lecture Location: TBA

Lecturer: Chris Dragos

Office Hours: TBA

Office Location: TBA

### Course Description:

What is the state? Why should citizens allow the state to exercise control over various aspects of life within that state? Are there limits to the exercise of that control, and if so, how does one determine them? What type of obligations, if any, do governments have toward the poor? How does one understand the government's role in protecting various rights of its people? Political philosophy is not primarily about politics, but instead is about the foundation of societies that allows political discourse to be possible. In this class, students will be introduced to these questions and will explore various answers to these questions from the history of philosophy and from contemporary discussions. Students will engage the answers provided in class as a means of formulating their own understanding of the state and its relationship to the people in it.

### Required Texts:

(1) Coursepack

### Evaluation:

1. Short Paper	20%	TBA
2. Term Paper	35%	TBA
3. Final Exam	35%	Date TBA
4. Participation	10%	

**Blackboard:** Materials for the course (including the assignments and lecture slides) will be available on Blackboard, and all announcements will take place through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check the Blackboard page on a regular basis and to keep up-to-date with the course. It is also your responsibility to ensure that you are receiving email that is sent out through Blackboard.

**Email Policy:** Emails will generally be answered within 48 hours. However, emails might not be answered if (1) the relevant information is available on the course webpage or syllabus, or (2) if the question is best addressed during class or office hours (e.g. a detailed philosophical question).

**Turnitin.com:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the turnitin.com service are described on the turnitin.com website.

**Extensions and Late Assignments:** Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day, unless prior arrangements have been made with your TA for an extension or there is a medical or family emergency (in which case documentation may be required). **Plan ahead:** you may request extensions up until 48 hours before assignments are due; after that, extensions will be granted only for illness or family emergencies.

**Accessibility:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and Accessibility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from a university is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the university treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The university outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

**Copyright in Instructional Settings:** If a student wishes to reproduce lecture presentations, course notes or other course materials, the student must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Otherwise all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings:**

#### **NOTES:**

- (1) **This schedule may change.** Any changes will be announced on Blackboard.
- (2) You are expected to have the readings completed **prior** to the lecture.

### **Week 1: Housekeeping, Overview, & a Critical Reasoning Primer**

*Readings:* None

### **Unit 1: State of Nature**

#### **Week 2: Hobbes & Locke**

*Readings:* Hobbes, *Leviathan* (chs.13-14)  
& Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (chs.1-4)

#### **Week 3: Rousseau & Calhoun**

*Readings:* Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (part 1)  
& Calhoun, *Disquisition on Government* (excerpts)

## **Unit 2: Political Authority & Justification for the State**

### **Week 4: Philosopher Kings & the Polis**

*Readings:* Plato, *Apology & Republic* (excerpts)  
& Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics* (bk.1, chs.1 2,5) & *Politics* (excerpts)

### **Week 5: The Sovereign State**

*Readings:* Machiavelli, *The Prince* (excerpts)  
& Hobbes, *Leviathan* (excerpts)

### **Week 6: Constitutional Government & Democracy**

*Readings:* Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government* (excerpts)  
& Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (bk.2)  
& Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (excerpts)

**[Short Paper Due @11:59pm]**

## **Unit 3: Justice**

### **Week 7: Utilitarianism**

*Readings:* Plato, *Republic* (excerpts)  
& Mill, “In Defense of Utilitarianism”  
& Smart, “Utilitarianism and Justice”

### **Week 8: Fairness**

*Readings:* Rawls, “The Separateness of Persons”  
& Rawls, *Justice as Fairness* (parts 1-4)

## **Unit 4: Rights**

### **Week 9: Introduction**

*Readings:* Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (ch.2-4) (\*re-read)  
& Mill, *Utilitarianism* (ch.5)  
& Jefferson, *Declaration of Independence* (excerpt)  
& *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*

### **Week 10: Property**

*Readings:* Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (ch.5)  
& Hume, “Of the Origin of Justice and Property”  
& Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals* (ch.1–ch.2.§.2)

**[Term Paper Due @11:59pm]**

### **Week 11: Poverty, Famine, & Positive/Negative Rights**

*Readings:* Singer, “Famine Affluence & Morality”  
& Arthur, “World Hunger & Moral Obligation: The Case Against Singer”

### **Week 12: Final Exam Review**

**[Final Exam Date, Time, & Location TBA]**