

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: History of Political Philosophy

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOPHY

2800F - 550

Instructor Name(s): Jennifer Epp

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course examines historical attempts to answer conceptual and theoretical questions about how best to arrange and govern our societies and to engage with each other as political animals. Questions include: What is the nature of political community? Who, if anyone, ought to rule and on what basis? How are ethics and politics related? Is it ever permissible to overthrow a ruler or government or to disobey the law? How should we understand sovereignty, statehood, citizenship, justice, freedom, equality, property, and rights? How do various forms of government differ? Which form is best? Students will read primary texts by major figures in the history of Western political philosophy, in conversation with writing by Non-Western and contemporary thinkers.

Learning Outcomes:

Comprehension, Analysis, Argumentation, and Critical Thinking: To develop student's abilities to identify, understand, construct, and critique arguments as well as to analyze concepts.

Area Specific Knowledge and self-Knowledge: To familiarize students with major debates in the history of western political thought and to understand the complexity of these debates, as well as their influence on world history.

Creative Problem Solving, Epistemic Responsibility and Critical Thinking: To improve student's abilities to ask and answer questions, critique their own opinions, and identify weaknesses in their own arguments.

Communication and Active Listening: To improve student's oral and written communication skills for the purposes of information seeking and sharing.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

1. Sterba, James. 2003. Social and Political Philosophy: classic texts in feminist and multicultural perspectives Wadsworth Publishing. 3rd edition.

All readings are from this textbook unless otherwise stated.

The first reading from it (by Plato) is available in the Resources section of OWL

The book is on Reserve in the Huron Library (2 hours).

Used copies can be purchased online via Amazon, AbeBooks, Better World Books, etc. Make sure you get the right one. There are very similar titles by the same author.

All other readings can be found either on the internet, via UWO Libraries, or in the Resources section of OWL. See the Reading List on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	ongoing	15%
Essay	Oct 20	25%
Group Assignment, Part 1 (Problem)	Nov. 10	10%
Group Assignment, Part 2 (Solution)	Dec. 4 or 6	25%
Exam, in person	TBA	25%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.