

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: History of Political Philosophy

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

2800F 550

Instructor Name(s): Cecilia Li

Instructor Email(s): zli289@uwo.ca

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

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the major ideas, issues, and figures in the history of political philosophy in the Western tradition, from classical Greece until the end of the 19th century. We will examine classical themes concerning the nature of justice, democracy, power, and the ideal ruler. We will also cover influential topics in the social contract tradition, such as the legitimate grounds for political authority and property. Along the way, we will encounter thinkers who explore themes of domination and oppression, especially as it relates to gender, colonialism, and class.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- Read and understand difficult and challenging texts
- Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of arguments
- Appreciate unfamiliar ideas and points of view
- Develop and defend your own positions and ideas
- Express yourself clearly in discussion
- Write clearly, concisely, and effectively in support of your claims

Textbooks and Course Materials:

N/A

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation and Attendance	ONGOING	25%
Essay #1	October 21st	15%
Essay #2	November 25th	25%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Final Exam	TBD	35%

Saturday, August 15, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

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