

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: History of Political Philosophy

Course Number and Section:

PHILOSOP

2800G 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 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:

• 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:

There will be no required text for this course. All course readings will be made available on Brightspace.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance and Participation	ongoing	25%
In class essay assignment	02/02/2025	10%
In class essay assignment 2	03/20/2025	20%

*The essay that receives the higher grade will be worth 20% and the lower, 10%.

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Final Exam	Exam Period	35%
Creative Writing Assignment	04/04/2025	10%

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

Wednesday, December 11, 2024