**Tutorial: Introduction to Political Philosophy**

**CRN 22545 / Spring 2020**

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**Course description**

This tutorial provides a broad introduction to political philosophy, both its history and contemporary issues. Within the constraints of an *introduction*, the tutorial is not meant to be comprehensive coverage of the rich field of political philosophy, so many issues of interest are not covered. While the student is welcome to explore these issues in subsequent work, they will only be expected to demonstrate understanding of the ideas and concepts contained in the assigned materials and a willingness to discuss their application to real-world issues.

At the end of this tutorial, the student should have a solid command of central issues of political philosophy cutting across its history; be able to write and communicate effectively about these issues and to relate them to the views of central figures of the history of political philosophy; be able to appreciate the social and historical context in which those views were shaped as well as their relevance to contemporary discussions.

The tutorial thus aims to provide a solid foundation for the student, should they be interested in pursuing further the study of political philosophy, and also constitutes a critical building block of the overall curriculum of a student of philosophy or political science.

Full term credit. Fulfills the Value Theory requirement of the Philosophy AOC. Cap: 6 students

**Meeting time and place**: to be determined with students

**Evaluation**

* Demonstration of progress through regular meetings
* Short response papers
* Preliminary and final drafts of a term paper on a chosen topic

**Recommended introductory texts**

* Jonathan Wolff, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Revised edition. Oxford UP, 2006. There is a third edition (2015), but I’ll be using the second one.
* Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*. Second edition. Oxford UP, 2001.

**Readings**

All the readings can be found online through the [USF online catalog](https://www.lib.usf.edu/libsite/login.php) (follow the URLs in the bibliography (in shared [folder](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XMfSL_AOPBAL2BMIdarimgY7-YJUiLXl)) when logged on to the NCF network) or, when indicated, as PDF files in the shared [folder](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XMfSL_AOPBAL2BMIdarimgY7-YJUiLXl).

1. **The state of nature and the social contract (Weeks 1-3)**

* Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 10, and ch. 13-22
* Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 1-10
* Rousseau
  + *Discourse on the Origins and Basis of Inequality Among Men*
  + *The Social Contract*, Book I
* Hume, *Essays*, “Of the original contract”
* (Optional) Kant
  + *Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Perspective*
  + *Conjectural Beginning of Human History*

1. **Politics and the rule of law (Weeks 4-5)**

* Plato, *Crito* and *The Apology* (if you’ve never read them)
* Aristotle, *Politics*, bk I
* Machiavelli, *The Prince*
* Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book II
* J. Brennan, *Against Democracy*, Preface to 2017 edition

1. **Justice and impartiality (Weeks 6-8) [Spring break, March 16-20]**

* Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, bk V
* Hume
  + *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*, “Of Justice”
  + (Optional) “Some farther considerations…” (Appendix)
* Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pt. 3, ch. 3
* Rawls, “Justice as fairness” (pdf)

1. **Feminism and liberal society (Week 9)**

* Wollstonecraft, *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
* J.S. Mill, *On the Subjection of Women* (optional)
* Pateman, *The Sexual Contract*, ch. 1 (pdf)
* (Optional) S.M. Okin, *Women in Western Political Thought*, Introduction
* (Optional) *SEP*, The History of feminism on Condorcet and de Grouchy ([link](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/histfem-condorcet/))

1. **Liberty, equality, property (Weeks 10-12)**

* J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, ch. 1-4
* Marx
  + *Excerpt-Notes of 1844*
  + *The German Ideology*, Part 1
* Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, lectures 1, 2 and 4
* Nozick, Selection, “Distributive justice” (pdf)
* G.A. Cohen, “On the currency of egalitarian justice”
* Sen, *The Idea of Justice*, pt. 3

1. **Global justice and group membership (Weeks 13-14)**

* Kymlicka, “Liberalism and communitarianism” (pdf)
* I.M. Young
  + “Five faces of oppression” (pdf)
  + (Optional) “Polity and group difference” (pdf)
* S.M. Okin, *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, Introduction and pt. 1
* C.W. Mills and T. Shelby
  + Mills: “‘Ideal theory’ as ideology” (pdf)
  + Shelby: “Race and social justice: Rawlsian considerations” (pdf)
* Nussbaum, “Beyond the social contract: Toward global justice” (pdf)
* Kant, *Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch*
* (Optional) Walzer, “The moral standing of states”
* (Optional) Shue
  + “Torture”
  + “The burdens of justice”