

The University of Toronto

PHL 265 - Introduction to Political Philosophy

Fall 2023

Syllabus

This course will provide an introduction to political philosophy through a study of key authors who have shaped the Western tradition, including Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Tocqueville, Mill, and Marx. We will also look at some problems addressed in contemporary thought through the work of John Rawls, Tommie Shelby, and Iris Marion Young. At the heart of the class are questions about the meaning and value of freedom and equality, the authority of government and its proper aims, and the relationship between the individual, associations, and the community.

INSTRUCTOR:	Andrew Franklin-Hall
CONTACT:	andrew.franklin.hall@utoronto.ca
LECTURES:	Mondays/Wednesdays 1:10-2:00 PM
In-Person Lectures: Muzzo Family Alumni Hall, AH 100 (AH 100) – 121 St. Joseph Street	
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesday 11:00-1:00
TUTORIAL SECTIONS:	Wednesdays at 3:10, 4:10, or 5:10
TEACHING ASSISTANTS	Alex Drusda (0101, 0201, 0301) alex.drusda@mail.utoronto.ca Henry Krahn (0102, 0202, 0302) henry.krahn@mail.utoronto.ca Schuyler Pringle (0103, 0203, 0303) schuyler.pringle@mail.utoronto.ca

A. General Information

Email Communication and Office Hours

We will communicate with you using Quercus. It is your responsibility to check your messages regularly.

Email is the best way to contact the instructor or teaching assistants outside of class-time.

The professor will try to respond to your emails promptly. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, send him a reminder email! With a large online class, there can be a lot of emails and it is easy to overlook one.

Readings

Links to all the readings have been made available on the Quercus site associated with our course. If you have difficulty accessing a reading, please contact the instructor.

You may choose to do the readings either before or after lectures (or both!), but you should have done the appropriate readings prior to your tutorial section. Your TA will keep you abreast as to what material will be covered in each tutorial.

Lectures

As is customary at UofT, class will begin at ten minutes after the hour, 12:10.

Prior to class, slides for the lecture will be posted. The slides are meant to be more like outlines than lecture notes. In other words, there will be a lot of information in lecture that is not on the slides.

After each class, an audio recording of the lecture will be posted on Quercus to assist those who have had to be absent or who simply want to review. However, these are not intended to be a substitute for regular lecture attendance, and there is no guarantee that the quality of the recording will be high.

The lecture slides and audio recordings are the intellectual property of Andrew Franklin-Hall. You may download them for your personal use, but you may not distribute them or upload them to a public platform without his express permission.

Learning Objectives

- Understand some of the major issues and approaches in the history of political philosophy.
- Develop skills in analyzing, criticizing, and constructing philosophical arguments.
- Develop academic writing skills.

B. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements

ASSIGNMENT	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	% OF FINAL MARK
Cumulative Final Exam	Short answer & essay	TBA Dec. 9-20	25%
Tutorial Participation	Attendance and Participation	Every Wednesday @ 3:10, 4:10, or 5:10 (tutorials begin on Sept. 20)	15%
Paper 1A	800-900 words	Sunday, Oct. 1 @ 11: 59 PM	10%
Paper 1B	1500-1800 words (including revised Part 1A)	Sunday, Oct. 29 @ 11: 59 PM	20%
Paper 2	1500-1800 words	Sunday, Dec. 3	30%

Final Examination

There will be a cumulative in-person, written exam during the final examination period. It will consist in short answer and short essays.

All material on the exam will be covered in lecture. This does not mean that you don't need to do the readings to perform well on the final exam. But it does mean that the topics covered on the final exam will not surprise you if you are familiar with the lectures.

Tutorial Participation

All tutorials are held on Wednesday afternoons, starting at either 3:10, 4:10, or 5:10. **The first tutorial will meet on Sept. 20.**

You must **sign up** for a tutorial section (you are not automatically enrolled in a tutorial section upon enrollment in the lecture). If you are not enrolled in a tutorial section, then no one will grade your assignments.

Tutorial sections will be held **in person**. **Attendance is required**. After one unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence will lower your grade for the tutorial by 1%. After three absences, each additional absence will lower your grade by 2%. If you do not attend at all, then

you will automatically lose 15% of the grade. There is no way to make up for this portion of your grade in another way.

Tutorial sections are intended for discussion and review of material covered in lecture, as well as for providing guidance with the writing assignments.

Your TA will grade your participation in tutorial on the basis of attentiveness and regular, thoughtful discussion that demonstrates engagement with the assigned texts. (There is such a thing as too much participation, however: avoid dominating discussions.) Routine, informed participation will generally earn around 80% or 90%--anything higher than that will be reserved for exceptional contributions to class over the semester. TAs may also elect to assign short quizzes, reading responses, etc. as part of your tutorial grade.

Papers

As this is a Writing Intensive Course, we will have the opportunity to focus on honing your skills in academic writing.

The first assignment (1A) will be a shorter expository essay. Your task will be to explain a basic concept or argument in one of our readings.

The second assignment (1B) will ask you to revise that first essay in line with the feedback you have received from your TA and to add a section comparing the first author's views with a second.

The third writing assignment (2) will ask you to produce a paper that is, in form, like the first two assignments put together.

Late Assignments and Extensions

Late papers will be penalized by 2% per day late (maximum 20%). Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances: illness, personal emergency, accessibility reasons, etc. Extension requests should initially be submitted to your TA – not the professor.

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Unless otherwise instructed, you are advised not to do outside research for the papers. That said, any text taken verbatim from other sources must be quoted and cited. Similarly, paraphrases and the borrowing of ideas from other sources should also be cited. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely and may result in both failing the course and having the incident permanently recorded on your academic transcript. You may talk with other students about your papers, but you must do the actual writing yourself. You are encouraged to have friends or writing tutors read over your work to proofread and give you feedback.

Using ChatGPT or other generative AI tools in the composition of an assignment, or part of an assignment, is considered the use of an unauthorized aid and is forbidden. This includes turning

in an edited version of something generated by ChatGPT (e.g., rephrasing a generated document into your own words.)

For information on the University's policy concerning academic integrity and advice about how to avoid committing plagiarism, go to:

<https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/perils-and-pitfalls/>

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site: (<https://teaching.utoronto.ca/>).

If you do not wish to submit your essay to the plagiarism detection tool, you must notify the instructor and an alternate way of submitting your work will be provided.

Marking

The final exam and papers will generally be marked by the TA leading your tutorial. However, to balance workloads, your assignment may occasionally be marked by another TA or the instructor. If you have a question or problem about the marking, you should talk first to whoever marked your paper. If you remain unsatisfied, you may then contact the instructor.

Accessibility

Students who need special accommodation for disabilities or their particular learning style should contact the instructor by email as soon as possible. Students with disabilities are also strongly encouraged to avail themselves of the services provided by the campus the Accessibility Service Office, including the provision of note-takers, transcribers, and sign-language interpreters. For more information, visit the Accessibility Services website at:

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/>

D. SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. For the updated schedule, see Quercus.

CLASS	DATE	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
1	Mon. – Sept. 11	Introduction	None
PART I: CLASSICAL THOUGHT			
2	Wed. – Sept. 13	Aristotle: Virtue and the Good Life	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , I.1-5, 7-8: X.9; II.6
3	Mon. – Sept. 18	Aristotle: Community and Property	<i>Politics</i> , I.1-5, 7, 12; II.1-5; III.6-7, 9
4	Wed. – Sept. 20	Aristotle: Just Rule	<i>Politics</i> , III.10-13, 17-18; IV.11-12
--	Wed. – Sept. 20	<i>Tutorials begin</i>	
--	Thurs. – Sept. 21	<i>First day to select Credit/No Credit (CR/NCR) option</i>	
PART II: 17th AND 18th CENTURY THOUGHT			
5	Mon. – Sept. 25	Hobbes: Leaving the State of Nature	<i>Leviathan</i> , selections from chs. 6, 11, 13-15
6	Wed. – Sept. 27	Hobbes: Sovereignty and Absolutism	<i>Leviathan</i> , selections from 17-21, 29-30
-	Sun. – Oct. 1	***Assignment 1A Due***	
7	Mon. – Oct. 2	Locke: Natural Liberty	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. I-IV, VI-X
8	Wed. – Oct. 4	Locke: Property	<i>Second Treatise</i> , ch. V
-	Mon. – Oct. 9	<i>Thanksgiving – No class</i>	
9	Wed. – Oct. 11	Locke: Limited Government	<i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. XI-XIII, XIX <i>Letter Concerning Toleration</i>
10	Mon. – Oct. 16	Rousseau: Inequality	<i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , selections
11	Wed. – Oct. 18	Rousseau: The Social Contract	<i>Social Contract</i> , Bk. I, chs. 1, 4, 6-9; Book II, chs. 1-4

12	Mon. – Oct. 23	Rousseau: Republican Virtue	<i>Social Contract</i> , Bk. II 6-7, 11-12; Bk. III, 1, 4, 12, 13, 15; Bk. IV. 1-2, 8
PART III: 19th CENTURY THOUGHT			
13	Wed. – Oct. 25	Tocqueville: Civil Society	<i>Democracy in America</i> , selections
--	Sun. – Oct. 29	***Assignment 1B Due***	
14	Mon. – Oct. 30	Mill: Utility and Liberty	<i>Utilitarianism</i> and <i>On Liberty</i> , selections (pp. 1-13)
15	Wed. – Nov. 1	Mill: Individuality and Progress	<i>Utilitarianism</i> and <i>On Liberty</i> , selections (pp. 13-38)
--	Mon. – Nov. 6	<i>Last Day to Drop Course</i>	
--	Mon. – Nov. 6	<i>Reading Week – No class</i>	
--	Wed. – Nov. 8	<i>Reading Week – No class</i>	
16	Mon. – Nov. 13	Marx: Alienation and Ideology	“Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right” “Estranged Labor” Optional: “German Ideology”
17	Wed. – Nov. 15	Marx: Capitalism and Communism	<i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (chs. I-II, IV) “Critique of the Gotha Program”
PART IV: CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT			
18	Mon. – Nov. 20	Rawls: Social Justice	“Distributive Justice,” §§1-2; “Distributive Justice: Some Addenda” (pp. 51-61)
19	Wed. – Nov. 22	Rawls: Reciprocity and Impartiality	“Distributive Justice: Some Addenda” (pp. 61-71); “Some Reasons for the Maximin Criteria”
20	Mon. – Nov. 27	Rawls: Public Reason	“The Idea of Public Reason Revisited,” pp. 765-785, 803-806

21	Wed. – Nov. 29	Shelby: Racial Injustice	<i>Dark Ghettos</i> , ch. 1
--	Sun. – Dec. 3	***Assignment 2 Due***	
22	Mon. – Dec. 4	Shelby: Non-Ideal Theory	<i>Dark Ghettos</i> , ch. 7
23	Wed. – Dec. 6	Young: Faces of Oppression	“Five Faces of Oppression”
24	Thurs. – Dec. 7 (Thanksgiving Make-up Day)	Young: Global Structural Injustice	“Responsibility and Global Justice”
--	Thurs. – Dec. 7	<i>Last Day to Add or Remove a CR/NCR option</i>	
--	Thurs. – Dec. 7	<i>Deadline to request Late Withdrawal (LWD)</i>	
--	TBA (Dec. 9-20)	<i>Final Exam</i>	