

PHIL 236 A01 202309 (CRN 12674)  
**Introduction to Political Philosophy**

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Office Hours CLE B322  
Thursdays 10:30 am-12:30 pm or by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course in the history of western political philosophy. The principal goal is to help you develop critical reading, writing and thinking skills while becoming familiar with some of the central thinkers and questions of western political philosophy. This year's theme is the relationship between being in a good political community and living a good life.

This course is reading-intensive and writing-intensive. It is very important to keep up with the readings as we go along. **It is not realistic to expect that you will be able to catch up on the relevant reading for the mid-term after it has been posted. It is not realistic to expect that you will be able to do well on tests and assignments without completing the readings or attending lectures.**

This course includes a short (7-9 page) paper relating material from the course to material outside of the course. **The paper assignment is *not* open-ended. You have been given a list of materials on the assignment sheet; the paper will have to relate at least one of these to a reading from the course outline.** The assignment sheet with the list of materials and a brief outline of the paper requirements is available on Brightspace. The materials for the paper assignment will not be covered in class, although I am happy to discuss them and the essay assignment by email or during office hours.

Evaluation

Weekly short writing assignments 10%  
Available each Friday at 10:30 a.m., due the following Monday before 9 a.m.; grade based on top 7.

Tests (2 in total) 60%  
Take-home midterm 25%  
Available Friday Oct 11 at 4 pm; due Tuesday, Oct 13 before midnight

In-person final exam 35%

7-9 page paper 30%  
Assignment sheet available Sep 11, due Dec 8

**Exceptions to deadlines and test scheduling is governed by [UVic policies regarding academic concessions](#).** If you are unable to meet a deadline or attend a test because of conflicting responsibilities, or unexpected or unavoidable circumstances **you must contact me as soon as you are aware of the circumstances or conflict.**

**Late assignments and papers will be penalized in the amount of 5% per 24 hours to a maximum of 30%.** Exceptions to this penalty will only be considered in cases where an alternate deadline was arranged ahead of time or lateness was caused by an unexpected or unavoidable circumstance, as described in [UVic's policies regarding academic concessions](#).

Grade Scale

for more details see the [regulations on grading in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)  
100-90 = A+, 85-89 = A, 80-84 = A-, 77-79 = B, 73-76 = B, 70-72 = B-, 65-69 = C+, 60-64 = C, 50-59 = D, 0-49 = F

### N Grades

**Students who have completed both tests and the 7-9 page paper will be considered to have completed the course.** Failure to complete at both tests or to submit the 7-9 page paper will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

### Brightspace

A Brightspace page has been set up for this course. You may access it by signing in with your netlink id. This page will be used to post announcements, to:

- give you online access to coursepack readings, tests, the essay assignment sheet, powerpoints, and supplementary resources
- collect the weekly assignments, the mid-term and the final paper

Please note that all **tests and assignment sheets and all lecture notes and teaching materials posted to Brightspace are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria.** Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. **Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#).** Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

### Expectations Regarding Conduct

**All members of the university community have the right to experience, and the responsibility to help create, a respectful and supportive learning environment.** These rights and the responsibilities are present both in interactions in person and online. Racism, sexualized violence, and any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

**By logging into UVic’s learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. This means that your conduct is subject to [University policies](#) in those settings.**

Professionalism is expected from all students enrolled in courses in the Faculty of Humanities. As part of professionalism, students, faculty and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the [Tri-Faculty’s Standards for Professional Behaviour](#).

### Academic Integrity

Any and all sources used in preparing work that is submitted for evaluation must be acknowledged. This includes websites and other students’ work. **Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated.** Such conduct is contrary to the University’s academic regulations and shows a profound lack of respect for me, for fellow students and for the university as an institution of higher learning.

**You are expected to read the University’s [Policy on Academic Integrity](#). You can find it in the Undergraduate Calendar.** It is your responsibility to know and follow the University’s regulations regarding academic integrity. Penalties for academic integrity violations are harsh and are applied as written.

For additional information about the University’s expectations with respect to academic integrity and resources to help you meet those expectations, visit the [University’s Academic Integrity page](#).

### Academic Supports

The University has a number of academic support services that may help you in this course, including the [Centre for Academic Communication](#), the [Library's Research Anywhere site](#), and the [Library's "Ask Us" service](#). Information about academic supports can be found through the [University's Learn Anywhere site](#).

### Academic Accommodations

The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you believe you will require academic accommodations to address barriers to your education in this course and you are not already registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL), please do so using the [CAL registration process](#). CAL is the office designated to make arrangements for accommodations. You can find information about academic accommodations through the [CAL website](#).

### Texts

- Plato, *Gorgias* (translated and edited by Robin Waterfield). Oxford University Press, 2008.
- David Hume, *Hume: Moral Philosophy* (edited by Geoffrey Sayre-McCord). Hackett Publishing Company, 2006
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *The Vindications: The Rights of Men and The Rights of Woman*, Mary Wollstonecraft (edited by D.L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf). Broadview Press: 1997.
- Karl Marx, *Marx: Selected Writings* (edited by Lawrence H. Simon). Hackett Publishing Company, 1994.
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, (translated by Bernard Frechtman). Open Road Media: 2018.
- Brightspace Coursepack (Cpack)

### Schedule of Readings

The following is the anticipated schedule of readings and assignments. Dates and readings may be modified over the course of the year. Such changes will be announced ahead of time.

Sep 8	C. Holder, "Notes on Ancients and Medievals" ( <b>Cpack</b> )
Sep 12-15	Plato <i>Gorgias</i> pp. 13-17 (453a-455a), 21-45 (457d-472c), 52-62 (476a-481a), 126-135 (521a-527e)
Sep 19,20	C. Holder, "Notes on early modern social contract theories" ( <b>Cpack</b> )
Sep 22	NO CLASS
Sep 26-Oct 3	David Hume <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> pp. 26-28 (II.7), 77-81 (III.1.2), 82-98 (III.2.1-2), 123-126 (III.2, VII) <i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i> pp. 192-212 (II, III)

*Of the Origin of Government* pp. 314-316

Oct 4-13 Mary Wollstonecraft  
C. Holder, "Notes on Edmund Burke" **(Cpack)**  
*Vindication of the Rights of Woman* chapters 1-3, 6, 9-10, 12

**Take-Home Mid-term available Friday Oct 11 at 4 pm; due Tuesday, Oct 13 before midnight**

Oct 15-24 Louis Riel  
*The Queen v Louis Riel*, pp 205-215 (July 29, 1885), 300-302 (July 31-Aug 1, 1885), 311-325 (address to the jury), 350-371 (address to the court) **(Cpack)**

Oct 25-Nov 1 Karl Marx  
"Alienated Labor", pp. 58-68  
"Private Property and Communism", pp 68-78  
"The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte", pp 188-208

Nov 3, 7 Rosa Luxemburg  
*Reform or Revolution*, chapters 1, 3-4, 8 **(Cpack)**  
*The Russian Revolution*, chapter 8 **(Cpack)**

Nov 8, 10 Deskaheh  
"I Am Going to Geneva" **(Cpack)**  
"The Redman's Appeal for Justice" **(Cpack)**

Nov 13-15 NO CLASS

Nov 17-24 W.E.B Du Bois  
"The Study of the N\*\*\*\* Problems" **(Cpack)**

Nov 28-Dec 1 Simone de Beauvoir  
*The Ethics of Ambiguity*, pp. 79-168

**Final exam scheduled during the exam period  
7-9 page essay due Dec 8 before midnight PST**