

PHIL 236
Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy

Department of Philosophy
University of Victoria
Winter Session – Second Term

Wednesdays
3:30-6:20
Cornett B135

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Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays 2:00-3:00 (or by appointment)

Course Description:

In this introductory course on Social and Political Philosophy, we'll have the opportunity to read classical and contemporary texts in Political Philosophy, beginning with Plato, and extending to the present. However, this will not be the whole of the course. Instead, each of the classical readings in Political Philosophy will be paired with a case study, dealing with political issues arising in the Canadian context. By way of examples, selections from Plato's *Republic* will be paired with a consideration of the relevance of the Canadian Senate, selections of Hobbes' *Leviathan* will be paired with a consideration of Quebec's Bill 78, which severely restricted the rights of students to protest. More contemporary readings will pair, for example, selections from Susan Moller Okin's *Justice, Gender and the Family* with the 1990 Supreme Court decision in *R.v. Lavallee*, which took up the question of Lavallee's appeal to a battered spouse defence after killing her abusive husband, while a reading by the Canadian political philosopher, Charles Taylor will be paired with a consideration of reasonable accommodation of cultural and religious diversity in Quebec.

Each class we will begin our discussion with a consideration of the relevant case, with a view to generating a sense of your intuitions about the matter. We will then turn to a close reading of the classical and contemporary readings, and then finally end by returning to the case in order to assess how the philosophy affects our reading of it.

Given the three-hour time slot, and the nature of the material, I am expecting this to be a discussion intensive course, and you are all *encouraged* to voice your thoughts on the material!

Reading:

Readings for the course will come from *Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy*. (eds.) Omid Payrow Shabani & Monique Deveaux, on Oxford University Press. This is available at the UVic Bookstore.

All of the readings on the Schedule of Readings are required reading, and you are expected to have read this material prior to coming to class. Failure to do so will hinder class discussion.

On occasion, I may also post items relevant to the class on the Course Spaces page. These are optional, but will sometimes be used to inform discussion in class.

Evaluation and Due Dates:

- i) First Textual Commentary (20%) – **Wednesday, January 30**
- ii) Second Textual Commentary (20%) – **Wednesday, February 20**
- iii) Third Textual Commentary (20%) – **Wednesday, March 20**
- iv) Final Take Home Examination (35%) – **Wednesday, April 10**
- v) Attendance and Participation (5%)
 - Regular Attendance
 - Class Discussion
 - Course Spaces Discussion
 - Office Hours

Policy Regarding Late Submission of Written Work:

All term work submitted on or before the specified due dates will be adjudicated and returned with written comments. Term work submitted *within one week* of the specified due dates will be adjudicated without penalty but will be returned without written comments. Any term work submitted *after the week* following the specified due date will be adjudicated and returned without comment, and a *penalty of 3% per day* will be assessed, absent a legitimate excuse.

Academic Integrity:

‘Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. It is expected that students, faculty members and staff at the University of Victoria, as members of an intellectual community, will adhere to these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Any action that contravenes this standard, including misrepresentation, falsification or deception, undermines the intention and worth of scholarly work and violates the fundamental academic rights of members of our community.’

For the full statement of the University’s Policy on Academic Integrity, please consult the Undergraduate Programs Calendar @ <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2018-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

Diversity Statement:

UVic is committed to equity, diversity, social justice and fostering a welcoming and diverse learning, teaching and working environment. These are essential elements in achieving excellence in research and education. As members of a diverse and dynamic learning community, we each have a role to play in creating safe, supportive, inclusive and healthy learning environments that foster mutual respect and civility, and that recognize that people are our primary strength.

Accessibility Statement:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAD) as soon as possible. The CAD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/> The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Policy on Names:

Though there is no official University policy on the use of names and pronouns appropriate to individual students' identities, my own personal policy is that of respecting the student's own wishes for how he/she/they would like to be addressed. Please feel comfortable in coming to talk to me about which names and pronouns are appropriate to you.

Territorial Acknowledgment:

We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

UVic Important Dates:

Sun. Feb. 10	Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees. 100% of tuition fees to be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
Mon. Feb. 18-Fri. Feb. 22	Reading Break – No classes
Thur. Feb. 28	Last day for withdrawal without penalty of failure.
Friday. Apr. 5	Last day of classes

Grade Scale & Description:		
Grade	Percentage	Description
A+ A A-	90-100 85-89 80-84	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
B+ B B-	77-79 73-76 70-72	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
C+ C	65-69 60-64	A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.
D	50-59	A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.
F	0-49	F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.
N	Grade withheld	Did not write examination or otherwise complete course requirements by the end of term or session.

Schedule of Readings	
Introduction	No readings.
Topic 1 Plato	Chapter I Reading: - Selections from <i>The Republic</i> Case: - The Canadian Senate: Barmak, Sarah. 'Why the Senate Deserves Props'
Topic 2 Aristotle	Chapter II Reading: - Selections from <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Case: - Proportional Justice: <i>R. V Ipeelee</i>
Topic 3 Thomas Hobbes	Chapter IV Reading: - Selections from <i>Leviathan</i> Case: - Quebec Student Protest & Bill 78: Blatchford, Andy. 'Bill 78: Quebec Student Protest Legislation "Worst Law" Since War Measures Act, Law Professor Says'
Topic 4 Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Chapter VI Reading: - Selections for <i>The Social Contract</i> Case: - Does Quebec Have a Right to Secede?: <i>Reference</i>
Topic 5 Immanuel Kant	Chapter VII Reading: - 'On the Common Saying: "This May be True in Theory, but it Does Not Apply in Practice"' Case: - The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Topic 6 Karl Marx	Chapter IX Reading: - <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> Case: - The Winnipeg General Strike: Bumsted, J.M., 'Deferring Expectations'

<p>Topic 7</p> <p>John Rawls</p>	<p>Chapter X</p> <p>Reading: - Selections from <i>A Theory of Justice</i></p> <p>Case: - Universal Health Care in Canada: C-6 Canada Health Act (1985)</p>
<p>Topic 8</p> <p>Susan Moller Okin</p>	<p>Chapter XII</p> <p>Reading: - Selections from <i>Justice, Gender, and the Family</i></p> <p>Case: - Taking Gender Seriously: <i>R v. Lavalee</i></p>
<p>Topic 9</p> <p>Martha Nussbaum</p>	<p>Chapter XIV</p> <p>Reading: - 'Women and Cultural Universals'</p> <p>Case: - Shari'a Law in Ontario: Selections from Boyd, Marion 'Dispute Resolution in Family Law: Protecting Choice, Promoting Inclusion'</p>
<p>Topic 10</p> <p>Will Kymicka</p>	<p>Chapter XVII</p> <p>Reading: - Selections from <i>Multicultural Citizenship</i></p> <p>Case: - Aboriginal Self-Government: The Maa-nuth First Nations Final Agreement</p>
<p>Topic 11</p> <p>Charles Taylor</p>	<p>Chapter XVII</p> <p>Reading: - 'Why Do Nations Have to Become States?'</p> <p>Case: - The Bouchard-Taylor Commission on Reasonable Accommodation in Quebec: Bouchard, Gerrard & Charles Taylor. Selections from 'Building the Future: A Time for Reconciliation'</p>