

PHIL 236 A01
Spring 2021
Introduction to Political Philosophy

Dr. Cindy Holder
clholder@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Wed 2 pm-3 pm
Thu 1:30 pm-2:30 pm
pre-booking required

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 course is reading-intensive and it will require a good deal of writing as well. It is very important to keep up with the readings as we go along; the ideal is to do the readings *before* the class in which they are to be covered. It is not realistic to expect that you will be able to catch up on the relevant reading for a test after it has been posted. It is not realistic to expect that you will be able to do well on tests without completing the readings or attending lectures.

In addition to three tests you will be required to complete 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 will be given a choice of three materials; the paper will have to relate at least one of these to a reading from the course outline. An assignment sheet with a list of the articles and a brief outline of the paper requirements will be available January 11. The materials for the paper assignment will not be covered in class, although I will be happy to discuss them and the assignment during office hours.

Evaluation

Tests (3 in total) 65%
Test #1 @ 10% (available Jan 20 due Jan 25)
Test #2 @ 25% (available Feb 10, due Feb 16)
Test #3 @ 30% (scheduled during final exam period)

7-9 page paper 35%
(assignment sheet available Jan 11, due April 21)

Late assignments and papers will be penalized in the amount of 5% per 24 hours to a maximum of 30%. Late penalties begin to accrue at 5:01 pm PST on the due date.

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 two tests and the 7-9 page paper will be considered to have completed the course. Failure to complete at least two of the 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 tests and the essay assignment
- give you access to invites for zoom meetings

Please note that **all tests and the essay assignment sheet and all lectures 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.**

Online Student Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience, and the responsibility to help create, such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.

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.

(<https://www.uvic.ca/services/studentlife/student-conduct/online-student-conduct/index.php>).

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

(https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurrent=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcltemType=policies). 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 (<https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/#ipn-resources>).

Academic Supports

The University has a number of academic support services that may help you in this course, including the Centre for Academic Communication (<https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/>), the Library's Research Anywhere site (<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/ResearchAnywhere/>) and the Library's "Ask Us" service (<https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/ask/index.php>). Information about academic supports can be found through the University's Learn Anywhere site (<https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/academic-supports/>)

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, please do so (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/onlineservices/register/index.php>). The Centre for Accessible Learning is the office designated to make arrangements for accommodations. You can find information about academic accommodations through the Centre for Accessible Learning's website (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/programs/academic/index.php>).

Texts

- *Riel's Defence: Perspectives on His Speeches*, Hans V Hansen, editor
McGill-Queen's University Press (2014)
- *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, Simone de Beauvoir (translated by Bernard Frechtman)
Open Road Media (2018)
- Brightspace Coursepack

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.

Jan 12-13	Political philosophy before the early moderns
Jan 15-22	Thomas Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> 13-15, 17-19, 29
Jan 26-29	John Locke <i>Second Treatise</i> , I-IX Test # 1 Available Jan 27, Due Feb 1 before midnight PST
Feb 2-5	Jean-Jacques Rousseau <i>The Social Contract</i> , Books I and II
Feb 9-12	Mary Wollstonecraft <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> 1, 3, 6-8, 10-11

- Feb 16-19 READING BREAK
- Feb 23-26 Immanuel Kant
 “On the Common Saying ‘This May Be True in Theory But It Does Not Apply in Practice’”
 “The Metaphysics of Morals”
- Mar 2-5 Karl Marx
 “Manifesto of the Communist Party”
Test #2 Available Mar 3, Due Mar 8 before midnight PST
- Mar 9-12 Louis Riel
Riel’s Defence pp. 23-71, 91-105, 247-263
- Mar 16-19 Emma Goldman
 “Anarchism: What It Really Stands for”
 “The Psychology of Political Violence”
- Mar 23-26 W.E. B du Bois
 “The Study of the Negro Problems”
 “Negroes and the crisis of capitalism in the United States”
- Mar 30-Apr 7 Simone de Beauvoir
The Ethics of Ambiguity, pp. 79-168
- Apr 9 Review
Test # 3 scheduled during the final exam period
7-9 page essay due April 21 before midnight PST