

PHIL 236 A01 202209 (CRN 12730)  
**Introduction to Political Philosophy**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 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 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 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 will be happy to discuss them and the assignment during office hours.

Evaluation

Tests (3 in total)	65%
Test #1 @ 10% (available Sep 26, due Oct 5)	
Test #2 @ 25% (available Oct 27, due Nov 4)	
Test #3 @ 30% (available Dec 5, due Dec 15)	

7-9 page paper	35%
(assignment sheet available Sep 8, due Dec 19)	

**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 of serious and unforeseeable extenuating circumstances such as illness, accident or family emergency.**

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

Please note that all **tests, the essay assignment sheet 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

- *Leviathan, Parts I and II – Revised Edition*, Thomas Hobbes, (edited by A.P. Martinich and Brian Battiste). Broadview Press: 2010.
- *The Vindications: The Rights of Men and The Rights of Woman*, Mary Wollstonecraft (edited by D.L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf). Broadview Press: 1997.
- *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 (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	Introduction C. Holder, "Notes on Ancients and Medievals"
Sep 12-19	Thomas Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> 13-15, 17-19, 29
Sep 22	John Locke C. Holder, "Notes on Locke" (Cpack)
Sep 26-Oct 3	Mary Wollstonecraft <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> 1, 3, 6-8, 10-11 <b>Test # 1 Available Sep 26, Due Oct 5 before midnight PST</b>

- Oct 6-17 Louis Riel  
*Riel's Defence* pp. 23-71, 91-105, 247-263
- Oct 20 Karl Marx  
"Estranged Labour" (Cpack)
- Oct 24 Rosa Luxemburg  
"The Russian Revolution" (Cpack)
- Oct 27-31 Emma Goldman  
"Anarchism: What It Really Stands For"  
"The Psychology of Political Violence"  
**Test #2 Available Oct 27, Due Nov 4 before midnight PST**
- Nov 3-7 Deskaheh  
"I Am Going to Geneva" (Cpack)  
"The Red Man's Appeal for Justice" (Cpack)
- Nov 11 **READING BREAK**
- Nov 14-21 W.E. B du Bois  
"The Study of the N\*\*\*\* Problems" (Cpack)  
"Marxism and the N\*\*\*\* Problem" (Cpack)
- Nov 25-Dec 1 Simone de Beauvoir  
*The Ethics of Ambiguity*, pp. 79-168
- Dec 5 Review  
**Test # 3 available Dec 5, due Dec 15**  
  
**7-9 page essay due Dec 21 before midnight PST**