



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 453 Lec 01
“Social and Political Philosophy”
Spring Term 2015

Course Outline

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 15:00-17:45 in SA 247

Instructor: Justin Caouette

Office: SS 1229

Email: jcaouett@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 11:00am-1:00pm, and by appointment.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for the course. Links to all readings can be found on D2L.

Course Description

This course intends to provide exposure to social and political philosophy through a focused engagement with the concept of justice. The class will seek to answer two related questions: 1) What is the proper way to understand justice and 2) How are the social practices of punishment and blame justified by different conceptions of justice? Attention will be given to both theories of justice from philosophers like Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Smith, Marx, and Rawls as well as to specific topics such as rights, property, and public shame.

Course Requirements

Evaluation

Reading Summaries: 30%

Discussion Leading 20% Due: Sign up sheet will be distributed on May 20th.

Final Paper Proposal: 10% Due no later than June 15th at 5 pm.

Final Paper: 40% Due no later than June 23rd at 5 pm.

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended. The only kind of exception to this is that the Final Paper will not be accepted unless it is preceded by an on-time submission of a Final Paper Proposal.

Reading Summaries: Three times during the semester, on a day of your choice, I'd like you to submit a summary of the assigned reading for that class (to receive credit, the summary must be on the reading assigned for the day that you submit the summary). The summary you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it. You should also raise an interesting philosophical point about the claims made by the author. Please do not reference any other texts other than the paper you are summarizing. These summaries need not be any longer than two pages. (I'll post an example of what I mean to D2L.) Reading summaries are due at the beginning of each class, in hard copy. You can only submit a reading summary on a day you attend class. (This is also a way of encouraging and tracking attendance.) There are 11 scheduled class meetings including this first one, but I'll only be asking for 3 reading summaries. It's entirely up to you which readings you select to

summarize. The reading summary with the lowest score will be dropped. Thus, only two summaries will factor into your final grade, each worth 15% respectively. Extra reading summaries beyond 3 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Discussion Leading: There will be 10 opportunities to lead discussion. A sign-up sheet will be distributed during class on May 20th. You must lead discussion twice during the semester, each worth 10% of your final grade. Prepare questions that will stimulate conversation about the assignments. There will be multiple discussion leaders during each class so I recommend coordinating with your fellow discussion leaders before presenting. You will be assessed on your ability to facilitate discussion as well as your display of competency with the assigned readings for that class.

Final Paper Proposal: This proposal should be no more than two typed, single spaced pages in which you explain to me what topic you are going to approach and how to approach it. It should read like a detailed outline of the final paper, giving an overview of its entire argumentative structure and what arguments will be given. This gives you a chance to run your topic, strategy, and ideas by me before you commit to them in your final paper.

Final Paper: Topics will be provided for your final paper, but for the final paper you are permitted to write on a topic of your own devising, provided you clear it with me in advance. The final paper should be no shorter than 2500 words and no longer than 3500 words. Final paper topics will be distributed early in the class, to allow you to get an early start on your final paper proposal, which is due no later than June 15th, but will be happily accepted earlier.

Late Policy: Late assignments are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Once a paper is late, it should be submitted immediately via email.

There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Letter Grade Conversion Table

A+ 97-100	B+ 85-88.9	C+ 73-76.9	D+ 61-64.9
A 93-96.9	B 81-84.9	C 69-72.9	D 57-60.9
A- 89-92.9	B- 77-80.9	C- 65-68.9	F 0-56.9

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- **General Academic Concerns and Program Planning**— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/> for more information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: arts1@ucalgary.ca.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR SPRING 2015:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)