



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 453 Lec 01 – “Social & Political Philosophy”

Winter Term 2014

Course Outline

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 17:00-18:15 in SA 247

Instructor: David G. Dick

Office: SS 1224

Phone: 403-220-6434

Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30pm-3:30pm, and by appointment

Course Description

This course intends to provide exposure to political philosophy through a focused engagement with the issue of economic justice. The class will seek to answer two related questions: 1) What is the proper way to allocate resources (monetary and otherwise) and 2) What is the proper role of the state in that allocation? Attention will be given to both theories of justice from philosophers like Hobbes, Locke, Smith, Marx, Rawls and Nozick as well as to specific topics such as wealth, property, and tax.

Required Texts

Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts (2nd Ed.)

Steven M. Cahn (editor), Oxford University Press, 2011

ISBN: 978-0-19-539661-4

Philosophy 453 Coursepack, available at the University Bookstore

Additional materials will be made available through the Blackboard site for this class.

Available at: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

Recommended Texts

Second Treatise of Government

C. B. Macpherson (editor), Hackett Publishing, 1980

ISBN:0-915144-86-7

Evaluation

Weekly Questions: 20%

First Paper: 30%

Final Paper Proposal: 10%

Final Paper: 40%

Due: Thursday, February 13th

Due no later than March 13th at 5 pm.

Due no later than Tuesday, April 15th at 4 pm.

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the standard 4.0 scale:

4.3 – A+	3.3 – B+	2.3 – C+	1.3 – D+
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–	0.0 – F

The University of Calgary has no D- grade. Therefore, final grades calculated to be numerically between 0.85 and 1.0 will be rounded to a final letter grade of D. Final grades calculated to be 0.849 and below will be assigned an F.

The arithmetic that will calculate your final grade will follow this formula:

$$(W. Questions).20 + (1st Paper).30 + (Paper Proposal).10 + (2nd Paper).40 = \\ \text{Final Grade}$$

This course has no Registrar administered final exam, only a final paper.

The entire mark will involve being graded on written work. Naturally, standard for essays prepared outside class will be much higher than those for weekly assignments.

Weekly questions are to be submitted in class and will not be accepted late.

Late papers 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 via email (to me at dgdick@ucalgary.ca) as soon as it is ready.

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.

Weekly Questions:

Each week, on a day of your choice, I'd like you to submit a question based on the reading for the day that you submit the question.

The question you write should convince me that you've read the day's reading, at least well enough to be confused by it.

I'm not kidding: confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress.

These questions and their explanations need not be any longer than about half a page. (I'll post an example of what I mean to Blackboard.)

Weekly questions are due at the beginning of each class, in hard copy. You can only submit a weekly question on a day you attend class. (This is also a way of encouraging and tracking attendance.)

There are 13 weeks including this first one, but I'll only be asking for 12 weekly questions from you this semester. It's entirely up to you which day you'd like to pass on.

Extra weekly questions beyond this 12 will be read, but will not count for any extra credit.

Papers:

Topics will be provided for both of the papers, 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 will be longer than the first paper (roughly 1500 words for the first and 3000 for the second).

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 March 13th, but will be happily accepted earlier. 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.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, 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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the PIC Office 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/undersgraduate> for detailed 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.