



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 453 Lec 01 – “Social & Political Philosophy”

Fall Term 2010

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 15:00-15:50 in ST 125

Instructor: David G. Dick

Office: SS 1224

Phone: 403-220-6434

Email: dgdick@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12pm-2pm, 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, 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

Additional materials will be posted to the Blackboard site for this class.
Available at: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

Evaluation

Weekly Questions:	20%	
First Paper:	30%	Due: Wednesday, November 3rd
Final Paper Proposal:	10%	Due: Wednesday, November 24th
Final Paper:	40%	Due: Wednesday, December 15th

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+	0.0 – F
4.0 – A	3.0 – B	2.0 – C	1.0 – D	
3.7 – A–	2.7 – B–	1.7 – C–	0.7 – D–	

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, a B- paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a D-. 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 sort 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 each will allow you to write on your own topic, provided you clear it with me in advance.

The first paper will aim at being a more straightforward examination of what we have dealt with in the class, while the final paper should involve some original thought and critique of your own. The final paper should be longer than the first paper (very roughly 1500 words for the first and 2500 for the second).

The final paper can be a revision, expansion, reply to the first paper (this is hoped for and preferred), or it can take up a new topic entirely. In either event, the final paper has to be

preceded by a proposal for its topic (due November 24th). 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.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are Laura Golebiowski (arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan (arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), Lara Schmitz (arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and Vincent St. Pierre (arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments, papers, and exams be returned to the student directly from the instructor unless other arrangements have been made in writing and approved by the Department Administrator.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).