

PHIL 270A Introduction to Political Philosophy

3 Credits, 3 hours lecture

This course introduces the student to the study of political philosophy. It will concentrate on such central figures in the history of political philosophy such as Hobbes, Rousseau and Marx, as well as contemporary political philosopher such as John Rawls, Robert Nozick and Susan Moller Okin. Topics include the nature of justice, the nature and justification of political obligation, freedom and authority, and the social contract.

Instructor

Mark Young, Ph D.
S213C
780.791.4825
Mark.Young@keyano.ca

Office Hours

Mondays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Thursdays 9:00am-10:00am
Fridays 1:00pm – 3:00pm
(or by appointment)

Hours of Instruction

Tuesdays 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Fridays 10:00am – 12:00pm

Required Resources

The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought: Essential Readings, Ancient, Modern and Contemporary Texts. Edited by A. Bailey, S. Brennan, W. Kymlicka, J. Levy, A. Sager and C. Wolf. (Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press).

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between the main positions in political philosophy.
- Identify some key debates in political philosophy.
- Demonstrate the ability to write an argumentative term paper which includes scholarly academic research and properly adopts APA or MLA referencing.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the completion of four assignments. These assignments include: a mid-term, term paper, a final exam and on-line discussion topics. Below is a brief description of each assignment, as well as relevant due dates. More detailed descriptions of each assignment will occur as we approach these assignments throughout the term.

On-line Discussions	TBA	15%
First Exam	21 October	25%
Term Paper	25 November	25%
Final Exam	TBA	35%
Total		100%

A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.

On-line Discussions

At five points throughout the term I will post discussion topics on Moodle for students to comment on. The total value of the assignment is 15%, and therefore 3% for every post. Responses are assessed based on accuracy of explanation, clarity of presentation and quality of critical reflections. Each topic will be available for only a limited time – typically a week – so late submissions will not be accepted.

First Exam

The first exam will cover material considered up to a week before the exam is scheduled. The exam will include multiple choice questions, short-answer questions and an essay question. The essay question will be provided before the exam, and it will follow the same format as the term paper. A review of the material will also occur before the exam, and students will be given a specific outline of the exam, including mark distribution, a week before the exam occurs. The value of this exam is 25% of the total grade.

Term Paper

The term paper should be between 8-11 pages (or 2400-3400 words) and contain at least three references. Two of these references must come from the course textbook, and the third source must be an external peer-reviewed academic source. A topics list will be provided for the term paper. Students must pick their term paper topic from this topic list or otherwise suffer a significant penalty. A basic format for the term paper, that also indicates the method evaluation, will be provided early in the term. The value of the term paper is 25% of the total grade.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover material considered after the first exam. The exam will include short answer questions and likely two essay questions. More details will be offered concerning this exam as it approaches. The value of the final exam is 35% of the total grade.

Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory Progression	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor Minimum Pass	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

Proposed Schedule of Topics**1. Modern Foundations:**

1.1 **Hobbes:** *Leviathan*, pp.248-316.

1.2 **Wollstonecraft:** *A Vindication of the Rights of Women: With Structures on Political and Moral Subjects*, pp.563-603.

1.3 **Marx and Engels:** *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, pp.692-705.
The Communist Manifesto, pp.717-733.
Critique of the Gotha Program, pp.733-743.

2. Contemporary Period:**2.1 Utilitarianism and Socialism:**

Readings: Singer, *A Darwinian Left: Politics, Evolution and Cooperation*, pp.3-43.
Mill, "What Utilitarianism Is," pp.658-661.
Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality," pp.229-243.

2.2 Liberalism

Readings: Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp.859-905.
Nozick, "Distributive Justice," pp.907-924.

2.3 Feminism

Readings: Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family*, pp.954-976.
Young, "Displacing the Distributive Paradigm," pp.977-992.

2.4 Communitarianism

Readings: Sandel, "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self," pp.944-952.

2.5 Anarchism

Readings: R. P. Wolff, "In Defense of Anarchism," pp.559-563.

Please Note:

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change.

Performance Requirements

A late penalty of 3 marks per day, on a scale of 100, will apply to all late assignments, but will be waived for legitimate reasons if supporting documentation is provided. If an assignment is late, and not handed-in during class time, arrangements must be made with the instructor to hand-in the assignment. Should an assignment go missing, and the student is unable to produce another copy, the assignment will be considered not submitted. Likewise, if a grade is not recorded for an assignment the onus is on the student to demonstrate that the assignment was completed and graded. No late assignments are accepted after the last day of classes. No changes can be made to the class schedule, but exceptions can be made for legitimate reasons, such as an illness, if supporting documentation is provided.

Student Responsibilities

It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College credit calendar.

More specific details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

Student Attendance

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a students' learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

Academic Misconduct

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment

The consequences for academic misconduct range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from the College. More specific descriptions and details are found in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct section of the Keyano College 2016-2017 credit calendar. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of the guidelines outlined in the Student Rights and Student Code of Conduct Policies.

In order to ensure your understanding of the concept of plagiarism, you must successfully complete the online tutorial found on ilearn.keyano.ca. Then print the certificate, sign it, and show it to each of your instructors. Your course work will not be graded until you show this signed certificate.

Specialized Supports

Counselling and Disability Services

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

SKILL Centre

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

Authorization

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

[Mark Young], Instructor

[Louis Dingley], Chair

Date Authorized

Guy Harmer, Dean

Date Authorized

Signed copies to be delivered to:

Instructor

Registrar's Office