
SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will investigate one of the central questions of philosophy and social theory: how we as humans should live together. We will take up this question in the context of the American tradition, beginning with the classical liberalism of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Then we will turn to 19th and 20th century analyses of and responses to classical liberalism that consider how our social and political interactions are conditioned by economic realities. Classical liberalism was the political theory informing the revolutionary movements that overturned monarchies and launched a new republican form of government—first in the United States and then in Europe—over many decades from the late 18th century through the 19th century. As this political tradition became established, capitalism would also come into its own as the Industrial Age unfolded. Criticisms of great social significance were leveled, and enormous and opposing political efforts were mobilized to supersede the systems of republican democracy and capitalist economy on one side, and on the other, to preserve them. In our current era of economic and political crisis, it is clear that the issues which burned so hotly in the 19th and 20th centuries have not left us. As we examine issues of justice within the tension between political organization and economic imperatives—between how we best govern ourselves and how we best meet our needs—we will be guided by this question: given that social and political institutions both shape us and are shaped by us, what sort of institutions should we adopt that best fulfill our many and varied human needs?

LEARNING OUTCOME

Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the major philosophical questions in the area of social philosophy with attention to the historical and conceptual development of these questions, and be able to articulate some of the major problems and responses central to this area of philosophy.

This course fulfills the CORE requirement for Ethics.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor	Email	Office Location, Hours & Phone
Prof Ruane Montaner	nruane@luc.edu	Crown 334H Monday 9-10am, Wednesday 4-5pm and by appointment (773) 621-1465 (8am - 10pm)

COURSE LOCATION

LUC Lakeshore Campus, Crown Center #114

Mon, Wed, Fri 2:45 – 3:35pm

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students are responsible for bringing texts to class.

Available at the Loyola Lakeshore Campus Bookstore:

- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett).
- J.S. Mill, *On Liberty* (Hackett).
- Karl Marx, *Selected Writings* (Hackett).
- David Schweickart, *After Capitalism*, second edition (Rowman & Littlefield).

Available on Sakai (sakai.luc.edu):

- John Locke, excerpts from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*.
- Martin L. King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”
- John Rawls, excerpts from *A Theory of Justice*.
- Robert Nozick, “Justice and Entitlement” from *Anarchy, State and Utopia*.
- George DeMartino, excerpts from *Global Economy, Global Justice*.

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

On Sakai under “Resources” you will find a selection of further readings referred to in the course schedule and in class. You will also find a link to the “The Western Tradition” telecourse. It is strongly recommended that you watch episodes 25 through 47 before the start of week 6.

A NOTE ABOUT PHILOSOPHY

A common misconception about philosophy (and philosophy courses) is that it is an arena in which people air their opinions and beliefs, all of which are equally valid simply because someone is committed to them. This misconception can cause difficulties when the holder of an opinion or belief is not prepared or inclined to examine or defend it. Yet that is precisely what philosophers do—we examine principles, beliefs and opinions (the best philosophers will test them, too). With this in mind, when you share your thoughts in class, 1) do not interpret an examination of your view as a personal attack; 2) engage with others who have questions about or criticisms of your position; and 3) maintain a civil tone at all times.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In order to maximize student focus on the course material and in-class discussions, our classroom is “unplugged.” No electronic devices, including laptops, tablets, mobile phones or recording devices are permitted.

OFFICE HOURS

Please make an appointment and arrive prepared for discussion. Our time together will be more productive if you have a good idea of what's troubling you. Putting this in the form of a question can help.

GRADING

Three take-home exams make up 75% of the final grade. The final exam, if you choose to take it, will replace your lowest exam grade. All 3 take-home exams must be submitted in order for you to pass the course. You may choose to take the final only in order to drop your lowest exam grade. The final cannot replace an exam that was never submitted. In cases of plagiarism, students forfeit the option to drop the lowest exam grade.

The remaining 25% of the grade is made up by student participation, which includes the completion of an introductory writing sample, a mid-semester self-assessment, informed and engaged participation in 13 review & discussions sessions, and online forum participation on Sakai.

Familiarize yourself with the University's policy on academic dishonesty. It is published in the student handbook and it is available online. We are all held to this standard. There are no exceptions. Copying, plagiarism (including that which makes minor changes), purchasing papers, and borrowing papers is cheating. This is by no means an exhaustive list of what falls under academic dishonesty. Assignments that have been plagiarized will earn a grade of F and the student will be reported to the Dean.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

This class requires significantly greater participation than most, so regular attendance is key to your success. Included in assessing student participation is engagement with pertinent issues, familiarity with the required texts and interaction with colleagues in person and on Sakai. Students qualify for help outside of class provided they have no more than six absences.

Our class periods are very short, so it is crucial to arrive on time, to have read the assigned texts, and to be prepared for lectures and discussion. This kind of participation requires significantly more preparation than does silently warming a desk. If you have difficulty speaking in front of a group, or if you are not sure how to contribute to discussions, contact your instructor as soon as possible. See "A Note About Philosophy" for discussion guidelines.

ASSIGNMENTS

Take-home exams must be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. Each exam question will be given a grade. The assignment grade is an average of the grades earned on the questions. Answer each question separately and number it. Assignments must be submitted at or before the beginning of class on the day that they are due.

Direct quotes from texts are not acceptable and will not be graded.

However, citations must be provided at the points where you put a philosopher's ideas into your own words. An example of proper citation:

Locke argues that humans are born into a state of nature where we are perfectly free and equal. (Locke, ST II §4)

Here Locke identifies the philosopher, ST the title of the work (Second Treatise), II the chapter and §4 the section of the text in which the point you're making can be found. Note that this sentence is not a direct quote from the text.

EXAM GRADING SCALE

This course uses a 12-point grading scale. A graphic table of the grading scale is available under Resources on Sakai.

- A Excellent work shows a clear understanding of the material and includes definitions of the terms used without misrepresentation or error, and supports answers with examples and/or clarifies a position with arguments in a way that correctly analyzes the issue(s) at hand. A question earning an A is worth 10-12 points.

- B Good work shows a clear understanding of the material and includes definitions of terms used without misrepresentation or error. A question earning a B is worth 7-9 points.

- C Adequate work shows some understanding of the material that is generally free of misrepresentation or error. (A question earning a C is worth 4-6 points.

- D Poor work shows little understanding of the material, misrepresents a position and/or offers incorrect or inappropriate arguments. A question earning a D is worth 1-3 points.

- F This grade is reserved for failure to answer a question. Be aware that this is not the same as zero points. It is a heavy penalty incurred for submitting an incomplete assignment. This encourages students to do their best to answer a question, since any answer attempted is far better than no answer at all. Never hesitate to do your best. A question earning an F is worth -12 points.

The instructor reserves the right to make exceptions for students in extraordinary circumstances.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Reading
1	1/20	Course introduction & syllabus review.
	1/22	Locke, excerpts from Book II of <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (on Sakai)
2	1/25	Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , Ch. II, III and IX §128

Week	Date	Reading
	1/27	Review & discussion section <i>Writing sample due.</i>
	1/29	JS Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapters 1 & 2
	Further reading	Continental Congress, "The Declaration of Independence" Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> Thomas Paine, <i>The Rights of Man</i>
3	2/1	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapter III
	2/3	Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
	2/5	Review & discussion section
	Further reading	Jeremy Bentham, <i>An Introduction to the Principles of Morals & Legislation</i> Peter Singer, <i>One World</i>
4	2/8	Rawls, excerpt from <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (on Sakai), pp. 598-604
	2/10	Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> continued, pp. 604-611
	2/12	Review & discussion section
	Further Reading	Pope Pius XI, "Quadragesimo Anno" (In the 40th Year)
5	2/15	Nozick, "Justice & Entitlement" (on Sakai)
	2/17	Review & discussion section
	2/19	Introduction to Marx, <i>Selected Writings</i> , pp. ix – xxxv
	Further Reading	Milton Friedman, <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i> Friedrich Hayek, <i>Individualism and Economic Order</i>
6	2/22	Karl Marx, <i>Selected Writings</i> , "Alienated Labor", pp. 62-64 Excerpt Notes of 1844, pp. 45-49, 50-53; <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, Ch. 7, "The Labor Process", pp. 274-282
	2/24	<i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, Ch. 1, "The Commodity", sections 1 & 2, pp. 220-230; Ch. 26, "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation," pp. 294-97. Review "Alienated Labor," pp. 62-64 and Ch. 7, "The Labor Process," pp. 274-82.
	2/26	Review & discussion section
7	2/29	<i>Capital</i> , Ch. 1, section 4 - "Fetishism of Commodities", pp. 230-239;

Week	Date	Reading
		Chapter 2, "The Process of Exchange", pp. 244-252
	3/2	<i>Capital</i> , Chapter 4 "The General Formula for Capital", pp. 255-264; Chapter 6, "The Sale and Purchase of Labor-Power", pp. 264-74 Review Ch. 7, "The Labor Process", and Ch. 26, "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation"
	3/4	Review & discussion section <i>Mid-Semester Self-Assessment due</i>
8	3/7-12	Spring Break – no classes.
9	3/14	Chapter 32, "The Historical Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation" pp. 297-300
	3/16	Review & discussion section for all of <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1
	3/18	Marx & Engels, "The Communist Manifesto", pp. 157-176
10	3/21	"The Communist Manifesto", pp. 177-186
	3/23	Review & discussion section
	Further Reading	Marx, "Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League" Engels, "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific" Lenin, "What Is To Be Done?" Trotsky, "The Revolution Betrayed"
	3/25	Easter holiday - no classes.
11	3/28	Easter holiday - no classes.
	3/30	DeMartino, excerpts from <i>Global Economy, Global Justice</i> (on Sakai), pp. 4-7, 76-81
	4/1	Review & discussion section
12	4/4	Schweickart, <i>After Capitalism</i> , Prefaces, pp. xiii-xxix, Ch. 1 and 2, pp. 23-34
	4/6	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 2, pp. 34-46
	4/8	Review & discussion section
13	4/11	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 3, pp. 47-66
	4/13	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 3, pp. 66-83
	4/15	Review & discussion section

Week	Date	Reading
14	4/18	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 4, pp. 85-123
	4/20	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 5, pp. 125-164
	4/22	Review & discussion section
15	4/25	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 6, pp. 165-186
	4/27	<i>After Capitalism</i> , Ch. 6, pp. 186-207
	4/29	Final review & discussion section

EXAM SCHEDULE

Date Due	Subject
2/19	Exam #1, Classical & Contemporary Liberalism Due at or before the start of class
3/30	Exam #2, Marx and the Discovery of Capital Due at or before start of class
4/22	Exam #3, Neoliberalism & Economic Democracy Due at or before the start of class
Final	
Friday, 5/7	4:15-6:15pm, Crown Center #114