

Political Philosophy II

Semester Number	Second
Course Code	B.A.G.A. 115 / BAPS-202
Semester Type	Spring
Academic year	2021/2022
Course Pre-requisites	Political Philosophy I
Credit Points (ECTS)	4 CP
Course Professor	Dr. Oleksandr Svitych
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Course Description

This is a course about how to think like a political philosopher. It covers some of the central themes and questions in political philosophy, from state authority to democracy and its discontents, from the tensions between capitalism and socialism to the prospects of the universal basic income, from the ubiquity of liberalism to more radical alternatives for a just and humane world. By exploring key concepts, thinkers, and issues, the course aims to expose the moral values that lie behind politics and underlie policies. It combines theoretical depth and practical examples from interpersonal, state-personal, and global relations.

Some of the questions the course asks are the following. Should the state authority be challenged? What is democracy? What are alternatives to the liberal order? What kind of global social order should be promoted? The answers to these real-world questions necessarily involve thinking as a political philosopher. The course extends the major debates covered in the “Political Philosophy I” and unfolds via four sections: State, Economy, Society, and Alternatives. It starts with an overview of the major theories of ethics; moves to the challenges to the state; raises the classic debates in political economy; exposes different approaches to economic and social justice; and evaluates such alternatives to liberalism as conservatism, communitarianism, and feminism. The course ends by highlighting the renewed salience of some of the key themes in political philosophy – justice and care – during the times of the pandemic.

Course Objectives

This course combines the modern and contemporary political philosophical thought to present some of the key arguments that underpin politics and policies. It elaborates on and reassess the themes introduced in “Political Philosophy I.” This is a journey that involves intensive reading of both classic and contemporary texts, in-class discussions and group debates, and thinking through and writing your own philosophy papers. By the end of this course, students will be able to expose and understand the moral ideals that structure political debate. They will develop analytical clarity to “cut through the noise” toward deeper political philosophical assumptions. They will learn how to formulate cogent arguments and raise objections, both in speaking and writing. Finally, students will understand that political philosophy connects with the real world: it aims not only to speculate about the ideal world, but also to change the existing one.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Understand the main concepts and conceptions the course.
2. Know key thinkers in political philosophy, key arguments, and key debates.
3. Understand the connections between political philosophy and the real world.

Professional and Practical Skills

1. Evaluate critically political discourse and rhetoric.
2. Reveal logical inconsistencies in political debates.
3. Formulate suggestions for public policies.

Critical Thinking and Intellectual Skills

1. Discern distinctions between similar political philosophical conceptions.
2. Identify the underlying values behind political rhetoric and policy preferences.
3. Get a clearer sense of what a position on a political issue involves and clarify their own ones.

General and Transferrable Skills

1. Gather, analyze, and interpret information. (*This is an intensive reading course*).
2. Make cogent, substantiated and verifiable claims in speaking and writing.
3. Be able to argue for a chosen viewpoint.

Course content and readings

Week 1 **Introduction**

MAX WEBER, The State and Coercion

THOMAS HOBBS, Creating Leviathan

JOHN LOCKE, Express and Tacit Consent

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU, Natural Freedom and the Freedom of the Citizen

STATE

Week 2 **Critique of the Social Contract**

DAVID HUME, The Irrelevance of Consent

JEREMY BENTHAM, Utility as the True Foundation

G. W. H. HEGEL, The Priority of the State over the Individual

H. L. A. HART, The Principle of Fairness

*David Hume, Eugene F. Miller (ed.), *Essays: Moral, Political, and Literary* ([1777] 1985), especially “Of the Original Contract”

Week 3 **The Anarchist Challenge**

OSCAR WILDE, Disobedience: Man’s Original Virtue

PETER KROPOTKIN, Mutual Aid

MICHAEL BAKUNIN, Science and the People

ROBERT PAUL WOLFF, The Conflict of Autonomy and Authority

*George Woodcock (ed.), *The Anarchist Reader* (1977)

Week 4 **Difficulties with Democracy**

PLATO, Ruling as a Skill

V. I. LENIN, Bourgeois and Proletarian Democracy

VILFREDO PARETO, Rule by Oligarchy

CAROLE PATEMAN, Participatory Democracy

M. K. GANDHI, *Hind Swaraj*

ASHISH KOTHARI, Radical Ecological Democracy

*Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory* (1976), especially “Recent theories of democracy and the ‘classical myth’”

ECONOMY

Week 5 **Private Property**

JOHN LOCKE, Labour as the Basis of Property

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU, The Earth Belongs to Nobody

KARL MARX, Money, the Universal Whore
KARL MARX, The True Foundation of Private Property
SIGMUND FREUD, Property and Aggression
ROBERT NOZICK, Difficulties with Mixing Labour
*Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (2001)

Week 6 The Market

ADAM SMITH, The Dangers of Government Interference
KARL MARX, Appearance and Reality
F. A. HAYEK, Prices as a Code
MILTON FRIEDMAN AND ROSE FRIEDMAN, The Tyranny of Controls
G. A. COHEN, Poverty as Lack of Freedom
*Milton Friedman and Rose Friedman, *Free to Choose: A Personal Statement* (1979)

Week 7 Distributive Justice

AESOP, The Grasshopper and the Ants
ARISTOTLE, Equality and Inequality
DAVID HUME, The Impossibility of Equality
KARL MARX, From Each According to His Abilities, To Each According to His Needs
F. A. HAYEK, The Impossibility of Planning
JOHN RAWLS, Two Principles of Justice
ROBERT NOZICK, The Entitlement Theory
AMARTYA SEN, Justice as Capabilities
*Amartya Sen, *The Idea of Justice* (2009)

Week 8 Mid-term exam. No readings are required.

SOCIETY

Week 9 Relational Justice

ELIZABETH S. ANDERSON, What is the Point of Equality?
IRIS M. YOUNG, Five Faces of Oppression
NANCY FRASER, Redistribution and Recognition
B. R. AMBEDKAR, Annihilation of Caste
BRIAN BARRY, Justice between Generations
PETER SINGER, Famine, Affluence and Morality
ONORA O'NEILL, Lifeboat Earth
* B. R. Ambedkar, *Annihilation of Caste* (2014)

Week 10 War and Peace

IMMANUEL KANT, Perpetual Peace

RICHARD COBDEN, The Civilizing Influence of Commerce

MICHAEL WALZER, Just and Unjust Wars

THOMAS NAGEL, The Limits of Warfare

*Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (2006)

Week 11 Nationalism

ISAIAH BERLIN, National Sentiment

ALASDAIR MACINTYRE, Is Patriotism a Virtue?

MARTHA NUSSBAUM, Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism

*Joshua Cohen (ed.), *For Love of Country: Debating Limits of Patriotism* (1996)

ALTERNATIVES

Week 12 Socialism

KARL MARX, Work in Communist Society

KARL MARX, The Communist Manifesto

KARL MARX, The Realm of Freedom

OSCAR WILDE, The Soul of Man Under Socialism

ERNEST MANDEL, Productive Activity

G. A. COHEN, Socialism and Equality of Opportunity

*BHABANI SHANKAR NAYAK, In Defence of Utopias

Week 13 Feminism

PLATO, Women as Weaker Partners

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU, The Likeness and Unlikeness of the Sexes

JOHN STUART MILL, The Subjection of Women

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT, The Rights of Women

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR, The Second Sex

CAROL GILLIGAN, In a Different Voice

*CINZIA ARRUZZA, TITHI BHATTACHARYA AND NANCY FRASER, Feminism for the 99 Percent

Week 14 Post-modernism

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE, The Impulse towards Justice

*MICHEL FOUCAULT, Power/Knowledge

RICHARD RORTY, The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy

Week 15 **Conclusion**

JÜRGEN HABERMAS, Legitimation Crisis

MICHAEL WALZER, The Artificiality of Liberalism

JONATHAN WOLFF, Transcending Liberal Individualism?

**Other options for weeks 12-14*

Week 12 **Conservatism**

EDMUND BURKE, Eternal Society

T. S. ELIOT, The Transmission of Culture

MICHAEL OAKESHOTT, On Being Conservative

Week 13 **Communitarianism**

CHARLES TAYLOR, Identification and Subjectivity

ALASDAIR MACINTYRE, Tradition and the Unity of a Life

MICHAEL SANDEL, Conceptions of Community

Week 14 **Ecopolitics**

GARETT HARDIN, The Tragedy of the Commons

ANDREW DOBSON, Green Political Thought

ARNE NAESS, Reason and Feeling in a Deeper World

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Overall, the course includes 45 hours of a) lectures (1 per week); b) discussions; c) group assignments; d) oral debates, and 15 office hours (1 per week by appointment).
- Students must ensure that they are able to attend the weekly lecture and be involved in different class activities such as group-discussions, group-activities or debates.

Assessment

Student Assessment Methods	Assessment Weights
• Final Exam	50%
• Midterm Exam	20%
• Presentation	20%
• Class Participation	10%

1. **Class participation.** Active participation and regular attendance is required for this class. You are expected to actively engage in class discussions and oral debates.
2. **Mid-term exam.** It will take place at the 8th week and consist of T/F question, concept identification, and short essay questions (1-2 double-spaced pages). The format may be subject to change and will be confirmed as the course progresses.
3. **Presentation.** This is a group exercise to critically assess the previous lecture's readings: The task is four-fold: 1) summarize what has been covered; 2) outline your own stance on the thinker's ideas (agree or disagree); 3) comment critically on these ideas; 4) discuss the contemporary relevance.
4. **Final exam.** It is in the format of an essay of 7-10 double-spaced pages on a topic of her choice (see the guide on how to write a philosophy paper). An alternative is to pursue an independent project (more on this during the course). The format may be subject to change. Detailed instructions will be announced toward the end of the semester.
 - Rules of plagiarism to be respected
 - Referencing style: any as long as it's consistent.

Plagiarism Rules

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words OR ideas without proper acknowledgement. Any idea, sentence or paragraph you take from a web source or from printed material must be credited with the original source. If you paraphrase or directly quote in the exam or essays, the source must be explicitly mentioned. You should not plagiarize content, be it from scholarly sources (i.e. books and journal articles) or from the Internet.

Grade Definition

Marks	Grade	Grade Point Average
>=80	O	8
79	A+	7.5
78	A+	7.5
77	A+	7.5
76	A+	7.5
75	A+	7.5
74	A	7
73	A	7
72	A	7
71	A	7
70	A	7
69	A-	6
68	A-	6
67	A-	6
66	A-	6
65	A-	6
64	B+	5
63	B+	5
62	B+	5
61	B+	5
60	B+	5
59	B	4
58	B	4
57	B	4
56	B	4
55	B	4
54	B-	3

Marks	Grade	Grade Point Average
53	B-	3
52	B-	3
51	B-	3
50	B-	3
49.5	F	2
49	P1	2
48	P1	2
47	P1	2
46	P1	2
45	P1	2
44.5	P2	1
44	P2	1
43	P2	1
42	P2	1
41	P2	1
40	P2	1
Less than 40	F	0

Learning Resources

Recommended Textbooks

- Jonathan Wolf, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (Oxford, 2006)
- Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy: A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians* (Polity, 2014)
- Graeme Garrard and James Bernard Murphy, *How to Think Politically: Sages, Scholars and Statesmen Whose Ideas Have Shaped the World* (Bloomsbury, 2019)

Useful Resources

- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/political-obligation/#AnaChaPolObl>
- *Justice Everywhere*
<http://justice-everywhere.org/>
- “Resources” folder in UMS ☺