

California State University Sacramento  
**Philosophy 122-02: Political Philosophy**  
Spring 2016 Course Syllabus (Updated April 8)

\*\*\*\*\*Read this now and refer to it regularly during the course\*\*\*\*\*

### Course Instructor and Details

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**Office Hours:** Monday 3:00-4:00PM,  
Tuesday & Thursday 10:30-11:30AM,  
or by appointment

### Course Information

**Course Name:** Political Philosophy

**Catalog Code:** PHIL 122, Section 02

**Days of Class Meetings:** Tuesday & Thursday

**Times of Class Meetings:** 9:00-10:15AM

**Room of Class Meetings:** Eureka Hall 102

### Contacting me:

The best way to contact me is via email. I should respond to emails sent during business hours within a few hours and by the next business day morning at the latest. I do occasionally respond to emails outside of business hours, but that should not be relied upon.

### About the Course

#### Catalog Description:

A philosophical examination of the individual, the community, and rights; the conflict between individual rights and the common good; various conceptions of justice, equality, liberty and the public good; and the relationship of politics to ethics, economics, law; war and peace. Units: 3.0.

#### GE Area:

This course satisfies GE area C2 (see the GE area outcomes below). The learning objectives associated with C2 should focus on the human condition.

#### Outcomes:

As per the GE area C2 expected outcomes, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
  - The set readings exhibit a wide range philosophical methods and conventions to students, and the essay-based assessment requires students to demonstrate that they understand those methods and conventions.
2. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
  - Throughout the course, and especially in the Race, Gender, and Colonialism section, students will, through reading, writing, and discussion, investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
3. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
  - Throughout the course, but particularly in the introductory and Race, Gender, and Colonialism sections, students will learn about how different understandings of what humans are, and what they need to flourish, is requisite for a robust political philosophy.

4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.
  - Through essay-writing and in-class discussions students will demonstrate a knowledge of the development of aspects of several cultures, including Ancient Greek, Western, and South Asian.

In addition, the philosophical nature of this course means that students will be able to:

5. Write prose that clearly demonstrates a sustained logical argument.
  - The essay-based assessment, in-class exercises, and instructor feedback will help students achieve this outcome.
6. Justify claims in a generally compelling manner.
  - The guided in-class discussions and essay-based assessment will help students achieve this outcome.

### **What to expect:**

This course is a discussion-based course. Students are expected to prepare for every class by completing the set reading and taking notes *before* coming to class. Surprise Reading Quizzes will hold students accountable for this work. This means that students have to try to understand the readings as best they can before I go over the material in class. Students will build a set of notes throughout the course that culminate in the Journal assignment. These features of the course mean that students will have to work hard throughout the semester, but also that class time will be mainly taken up by discussion, activities, and application of the material. *Students who are unwilling to regularly do the reading in advance of class should not take this course, as they would be lucky to pass.*

### **Required Materials:**

1. The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought, Volume 2: The Twentieth Century and Beyond, edited by Andrew Bailey, Samantha Brennan, Will Kymlicka, Jacob Levy, Alex Sager, and Clark Wolf (Broadview Press). Available from the [Bookstore](#), [Amazon.com](#), and [Broadview Press](#).
2. Additional required online videos, articles, and PDFs (all free) are noted on the schedule (see it on SacCT)

### **Technology Requirements:**

Students must have a reliable way of accessing [SacCT](#). All important course announcements, information, and resources will be communicated and available through SacCT (except the material in the required text). Furthermore, students must have a reliable way of accessing [Turnitin](#). All papers will be submitted via Turnitin. Technical problems must be directed to the ITC Help Line @ 278-7337.

### **Grading and Assessment**

**Grading:** Your final grade is determined by how many points you earn out of 100%, with these grade floors: 93%=A, 90%=A-, 87%=B+, 83%=B, 80%=B-, 77%=C+, 73%=C, 70%=C-, 67%=D+, 63%=D, 60%=D- (and F = all scores less than 60%). [Definition of Grade Symbols](#).

**Implicit bias and anonymous grading:** Social scientists have discovered that professors are more likely to give work the grade it deserves if assignments are graded anonymously. Even professors with the best intentions may be prejudice without knowing it, e.g., perhaps giving worse grades to a minority group despite being a member of that minority him or herself. For these reasons, I intend to grade as much work as possible anonymously.

I need you to help me grade anonymously. You must learn your student ID# by heart, or bring your ID card to every class (so you can put your ID# instead of your name on the Surprise Reading Quizzes). You must also set up a Turnitin account that uses your student ID# instead of your name to identify you (i.e., enter your whole student ID# into both of the name fields). Go to Turnitin now (<http://www.turnitin.com/>) and use the following details: Class ID: 11671703, Password: phil122s2s16. Please note that if you already have a Turnitin account, then you can simply login and change your name in the settings section.

**Assessment:**

Your total points are calculated by adding the following differently weighted assessment items:

Assessment	Details	Due date (all due at 9AM)	Learning Outcomes Assessed	% of final mark
Participation	0.5 of a mark per useful contribution to class discussion. Max of 0.5 per regular class and 1.0 per online class.	Any class, including online classes	1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	10%
Surprise Reading Quizzes	Best 10 out of 14 count. You may have your notes out during quizzes, but not the textbook.	During class, any class day except for the first and the last	1, 2 & 4	30%
Early Midterm	Do anywhere open book online (SacCT) multichoice quiz. Must start during class time, 20 minutes to answer 20 questions	2/23 (9:00-10:15AM start, Tuesday)	1 & 4	10%
Analysis Paper	1,000-1,300 words. Submit to Turnitin.	<del>3/15</del> 3/29 (before 9:00AM, Tuesday)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	15%
Midterm	Do anywhere open book online (SacCT) multichoice quiz. Must start during class time, 20 minutes to answer 20 questions	3/29 (9:00-10:15AM start, Tuesday)	1 & 4	10%
Journal (final)	Collection of notes on all readings and answers to key questions for each section. Submit to Turnitin.	5/17 (before 9:00AM, Tuesday)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	25%
<b>Total</b>				<b>100%</b>

**There is no final exam.**

Detailed information on each item of assessment can be found on SacCT in the Assignments area.

**Other Important Information**

**Attendance at Class:**

Attending class is expected. The roll will be taken every day. *Any student who misses 2 or more classes in the first 2 weeks may be administratively dropped* to make room for students on the waitlist.

**Classroom behavior:**

The other people in the class are people, so treat them with respect. Yes, even I am a person, so treat me with respect too! If you are unsure how to do this, please ask me during a class.

**Plagiarism and other such issues:**

Don't cheat. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and is not tolerated. Always use quotation marks and a footnote citation to indicate sentences or passages you borrow from another author.

Assignments in which plagiarism is found will at the least be graded at 0 (not just an F). ALL incidents of plagiarism will be reported both to the Department Chair and to the Judicial Officer in the Office of Student Affairs for possible further administrative sanction. You are responsible for reading and understanding the details of the University's plagiarism policy. All papers will be put through plagiarism software. See the current student handbook for further information on student rights and responsibilities. Here is a link to the university's [honesty policy](#).

**Turnitin:**

Consistent with Sacramento State's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, Turnitin will be used to compare all students' papers in this course with multiple sources. The tool compares each student's work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a 'similarity score'. The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, I will make a complete assessment and judge the originality of each student's work. Students should submit papers to Turnitin assignments *without* identifying information included in the paper (e.g. name or student number), the system will automatically show me the name you registered under. Please note that, in order to promote academic honesty around the world, your papers will be retained in the global Turnitin repository.

**Make-up work, late submissions, and reasonable accommodation:**

Quizzes may not be made-up. Late papers turned in after 9:00AM on their due dates will be docked 10% (e.g., A- 90% becomes B- 80%); later papers will not be accepted (i.e., *papers submitted after midnight at the end of the due date will not be marked and will receive a zero grade*). Allowances may be made for documented illness, or other family or personal emergencies *if you contact me as soon as you can after the emergency and before the due date* (i.e., extensions will usually not be given on or after the due date).

**Extra credit:**

There will be several opportunities for students to earn extra credit in this course. Interested students should refer to the Extra Credit section in SacCT.

**Special needs:**

Please tell me early if you have a disability requiring accommodation (documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955) or if you need to miss something to participate in officially recognized student activities. More information available [here](#).

**I am here to help:**

Remember that I am here to help you learn as best I can. Please utilize my office hours for further feedback and guidance on course-related issues.

**Strike action:**

The California Faculty Association is in the midst of a difficult contract dispute with management. It is possible that the faculty union will call a strike or other work stoppage this term. I will inform the class as soon as possible of any disruption to our class meeting schedule.

**Schedule:**

The schedule is a very important document for this course. The schedule shows you exactly what you can expect from every class and what you are expected to do to prepare for it. If the schedule changes, I will alert students in class, with an announcement on SacCT, and via an email to the address that is registered with SacCT. It is your responsibility to come to class, check SacCT, and check your SacCT-registered email. You can find the schedule on SacCT (in the sidebar on the left).

Wk	Date	Day	What	Topic	Details	Out-comes	Required for the task
1	1/26	Tu	Lecture 1	Introduction	Learn about the course	1, 2	Read: Getting Started & Political Philosophy ( <a href="http://www.iep.utm.edu/polphil/">http://www.iep.utm.edu/polphil/</a> )
1	1/28	Th	Lecture 2	Introduction	Learn about how to do well in the course	1, 2	Read: Syllabus (SacCT)
			Assignment		<b>Surprize quizzes could start today</b>	1, 2 & 4	Always do the set reading before class and bring your Journal
2	2/2	Tu	Lecture 3	Social Contract Theory		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read: Introduction & Glaucon (SacCT>Content>Lecture Slides and Readings)
2	2/4	Th	Lecture 4	Social Contract Theory		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read: Social Contract Theory (Sections 1-3; <a href="http://www.iep.utm.edu/soc-cont/">http://www.iep.utm.edu/soc-cont/</a> )
3	2/9	Tu	Lecture 5	Power and the State		1, 2, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Emma Goldman (pp. 15-21)
3	2/11	Th	Lecture 6	Power and the State		1, 2, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): V.I. Lenin (pp. 22-27)
4	2/16	Tu	Lecture 7	Power and the State		1, 2, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): F. A. Hayek (pp. 70-79)
4	2/18	Th	Lecture 8	Power and the State		1, 2, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Hannah Arendt (pp. 85-106)
5	2/23	Tu	<b>No Class, Assignment</b>	All so far (including syllabus)	Early Midterm, open book, online (SacCT) multichoice quiz	1 & 4	Read your Journal
5	2/25	Th	Lecture 9	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): W.E.B. Du Bois (pp. 153-157)
6	3/1	Tu	Lecture 10	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Martin Luther King Jr. (pp. 172-181)
6	3/3	Th	Lecture 11	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Mahatma Gandhi (pp. 182-188)
7	3/8	Tu	Lecture 12	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Simone De Beauvoir (pp. 158-171)
7	3/10	Th	Lecture 13	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Iris Young (pp. 202-217)
8	3/15	Tu	Lecture 14	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Iris Young (pp. 217-231)
			Assignment	Race, Gender, and Colonialism	Analysis Paper due 9AM (submit to <a href="#">Turnitin</a> )	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Read (online): Black People Can't Be Racist by Sobantu Mzwakali <a href="http://www.pambazuka.net/en/category.php/features/95744">http://www.pambazuka.net/en/category.php/features/95744</a>
8	3/17	Th	Lecture 15	Race, Gender, and Colonialism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Catherine Mackinnon (pp. 232-247)

	3/22	Tu	<b>Holiday</b>		Spring Break		
	3/24	Th	<b>Holiday</b>		Spring Break		
9	3/29	Tu	<b>No Class, Assignment</b>	Race, Gender, and Colonialism	Midterm, open book, online (SacCT) multichoice quiz	1 & 4	Read your Journal
			<b>Assignment</b>	Race, Gender, and Colonialism	Analysis Paper due 9AM (submit to <a href="#">Turnitin</a> )	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Read (online): Black People Can't Be Racist by Sobantu Mzwakali <a href="http://www.pambazuka.net/en/category.php/features/95744">http://www.pambazuka.net/en/category.php/features/95744</a>
9	3/31	Th	<b>Holiday</b>		Cezar Chavez Day		
10	4/5	Tu	Lecture 16	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): John Rawls (pp. 265-281)
10	4/7	Th	Lecture 17	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): John Rawls (pp. 281-296)
11	4/12	Tu	Lecture 18	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 2, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Robert Nozick (pp. 312-330)
			<b>Special event &amp; extra credit opportunity</b>	Nammour: Power and injustice	Screening of the film Remittance (2014) and then talk by the film's maker, Dr. Patrick Daly, 12-3pm, The Hinde	1, 4 & 6	Ask a useful question at the event to get 1 point of extra credit
11	4/13	W	<b>Special event &amp; extra credit opportunity Back on</b>	Nammour: Power and injustice	Student panel: The Argument from Causal Impotence (e.g. why should I bother recycling?), Forest Suite, The Union, 1:30-3PM	1, 4 & 6	Ask a useful question at the event to get 1 point of extra credit
11	4/14	Th	Lecture 19 <b>Online Class Back on</b>	Rights-Based Liberalism	<b>Score up to 3 half marks for participation</b> with useful comments (on this calendar day) in SacCT>Discussions>Taylor	1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Charles Taylor (pp. 371-382)
11	4/15	F	<b>Special event &amp; extra credit opportunity Back on</b>	Nammour: Power and injustice	Milking the Young - talk by Loren Lomasky, 11am-1pm, California Suite, The Union	1, 4 & 6	Ask a useful question at the talk to get 1 point of extra credit
12	4/19	Tu	Lecture 20 <b>Online Class Back on</b>	Rights-Based Liberalism	<b>Score up to 3 half marks for participation</b> with useful comments (on this calendar day) in SacCT>Discussions>Kymlicka	1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Will Kymlicka (pp. 409-426)
12	4/21	Th	Lecture 21	Rights-Based Liberalism	<b>Expect quizzes every class from now on</b>	1, 2, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Michael Sandel (pp. 383-391)
13	4/25	M	<b>Special event &amp; extra credit opportunity</b>	Rights-Based Liberalism	Marriage in a Liberal Democracy, 3 panel talks ( <a href="#">details</a> )	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	Attend one of the panel talks and ask a useful question to get 1 point of extra credit
13	4/26	Tu	Lecture 22	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): John Rawls (pp. 296-311)
13	4/28	Th	Lecture 23	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Amartya Sen (pp. 439-451)

14	5/3	Tu	Lecture 24	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Martha Nussbaum (pp. 452-463; up to section 4)
14	5/5	Tu	Lecture 25	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 2, 3, 4 & 6	Read (textbook): Martha Nussbaum (pp. 463-474)
15	5/10	Tu	Lecture 26	Rights-Based Liberalism		1, 2, 3 & 6	Read (textbook): Susan Moller Okin (pp. 488-501)
15	5/12	Th	Lecture 27	Wrap up		1, 2, 3 & 6	Bring your Journals
			<b>Extra credit opportunity</b>	Rights-Based Liberalism	The Great Debate	At least 1 & 6	Bring your debate materials
Exam week	5/17	Tu	<b>Assignment</b>		Journal due 9AM (submit to <a href="#">Turnitin</a> )	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6	