

730:255:01, MTH 11:30 -12:50, Scott Hall 204, CAC
Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy

McGary
Spring 2018

Course Description:

We shall examine various conceptions of justice and rights as well as different theories of political obligation. We will read the work of historical figures (Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, and John Stuart Mill) as well as a number of contemporary thinkers.

Office and Office Hours:

106 Somerset Street, CAC, Room 536, Phone: (Email: hmccgary@rci.rutgers.edu, Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 2- 3 pm and by appointment.

Course Requirements:

Each student must participate in class discussion, write one seven page critical (argumentative) essay, and take a mid-semester and a final examination.

Due Dates: Mid-semester Exam: February 26 Paper: April 26

Evaluation of Course Requirements:

Class Participation: 10%; Term paper: 30%; Mid-semester Exam: 25%; Final Exam: 35%
Class discussion is an important part of this course. Accordingly, students are required to attend class, do the assigned readings, and participate in class discussions. Students who fail to attend class without a legitimate excuse will receive a failing grade for that session. Legitimate excuses include: the observance of religious holidays, participation in official University activities, and serious medical or family problems.

Class contributions will be judged according to the following criteria:

- * The extent to which the contribution demonstrates an understanding of the material;
- * The extent to which the contribution advances the discussion;
- * The extent to which the contribution is coherent, thoughtful, and novel.

Both examinations will be in-class essay exams, and the final paper must state a clear and interesting thesis that is germane to a topic discussed in the course. This will mean that you might have to read ahead if you wish to write about a topic or theme that is discussed later in the course. I will provide you with instructions for writing your paper.

Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is against University standards. Academic dishonesty means cheating, plagiarism, or otherwise satisfying requirements through fraudulent means. The University has established disciplinary procedures for academic dishonesty.

Course Format:

In most sessions, I will begin by presenting a thesis advanced in the assigned reading. Then we will examine the reasons the author advances in support of his/her thesis. Finally, I will ask the class whether you think the author has provided a good (sound) argument in support of his /her thesis.

Course Readings:

The readings for the course can be found on the Rutgers Sakai site.

Readings:

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| January | 18 | Introduction to the Course |
| | 22 | Plato, <i>Crito</i> in Robert M. Stewart (ed.), <i>Readings in Social and Political Philosophy</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. |
| | 25 | A. John Simmons, "Principles of Fair Play," in Robert M. Stewart (ed.), <i>Readings in Social and Political Philosophy</i> , Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 1996. |
| | 29 | Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book IV in Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns (eds.), <i>The Collected Dialogues of Plato</i> , Princeton U. Press, |
| February | 1 | Aristotle, "The Nature of Justice" In James P. Sterba (ed.) <i>Justice: Alternative Political Perspectives</i> , New York: Wadsworth, 1992. |
| | 5 | Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> in in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> , Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2011. |
| | 8 | Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> in in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> , Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2011. |
| | 12 | John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> , Oxford U. Press, 2011. |
| | 15 | Robert Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia," in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> , Oxford U. Press, 2011. |
| | 19 | Robert Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia," in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> , Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2011. |
| | 22 | Judith J. Thomson, "The Right to Privacy," in J.J. Thomson, <i>Rights, Restitution, and Risk</i> , Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1986. |
| | 26 | Mid-Semester Examination |
| March | 1 | Joel Feinberg, "Collective Responsibility," in Larry May and Stacey Hoffman, editors, <i>Collective Responsibility</i> , Savage, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1991. |
| | 5 | Howard McGary, "Morality and Collective Liability," in Larry May and Stacey Hoffman, editors, <i>Collective Responsibility</i> , Savage, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1991. |
| | 8 | David Hume, <i>Of the Original Contract</i> in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> , Oxford: Oxford, 2011. |
| | | SPRING BREAK (MARCH 10 – MARCH 18) |
| | 19 | Julia Annas, "Being Virtuous and Doing the Right Thing," in <i>Ethical Theory</i> , edited by Russ Shafer-Landau, Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2007. |
| | 22 | J.L.A. Garcia, "The Heart of Racism," in Bernard R. Boxill, (ed.), <i>Race and Racism</i> , Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2001. |

- 26 Immanuel Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2011.
- 29 Herbert Morris, "Persons and Punishment," in Jeffrie G. Murphy, editor, *Punishment and Rehabilitation*, New York: Wadsworth, 1995.
- April 2 Anthony Appiah, "Racism," in David Theo Goldberg, *Anatomy of Racism*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1990.
- 5 Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, Oxford: Oxford, 2011.
- 9 Allan W. Wood, "The Marxian Critique of Justice," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 1 No. 3, Spring 1972.
- 12 John Rawls, "The Domain of the Political and Overlapping Consensus," in James P. Sterba (ed.), *Justice: Alternative Perspectives*, New York: Wadsworth, 1999.
- 16 John Rawls, "The Domain of the Political and Overlapping Consensus," in James P. Sterba (ed.), *Justice: Alternative Perspectives*, New York: Wadsworth, 1999.
- 19 John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapter 2, George Sher (ed.), Hackett Publishing, 1979.
- 23 Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," in *Ethical Theory*, edited by Russ Shafer-Landau. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2007: 505-512.
- 26 John Stuart Mill, On Liberty in Steven M. Cahn (ed.), *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2011.
- 26 Stephen Macedo, "Toleration and Fundamentalism," in *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, edited by Robert Goodin and Philip Pettit, Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1995.
- 30 **Final Exam Review**

