

# Introduction to Political Philosophy

## Freedom, Equality, and Community

The University of Toronto

PHL 265 – Fall 2014

### Syllabus

This course will provide an introduction to political philosophy through the lens of three major values: freedom, equality, and community. After a brief survey of Aristotelian and Scholastic political thought, we study three influential social contract thinkers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau—and their endeavors to explain the foundations and boundaries of legitimate authority and material inequality in a way that is consistent with the premise that all individuals are by nature free and equal. Next, we turn to the vicissitudes and extensions of these ideals of freedom and equality in nineteenth-century thought, including Mill's trenchant defense of individual liberty against encroachments of the community, Hegel's exploration of the intrinsic value of community for individual freedom, and Marx's radical effort to enhance social solidarity by extending the values of freedom and equality to the whole economic sphere. Then we examine John Rawls's influential twentieth-century statement of liberal egalitarianism as well as its libertarian, communitarian, and multiculturalist critics. Finally, we conclude with a study of twenty-first-century thinkers like Kwame Anthony Appiah and Martha Nussbaum who are exploring the new frontiers of political philosophy.

<b>Meeting:</b>	Tues. & Thurs. 10:00-11:00 + Discussion Section	Walberg Building 116
<b>Instructor:</b>	Andrew Franklin-Hall	
<b>Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:andrew.franklin.hall@utoronto.ca">andrew.franklin.hall@utoronto.ca</a>	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesday 2:00-3:00, Thursday 1:00-2:00, and by appointment	Jackman Humanities Building 170 St. George St. #428
<b>Teaching Assistants</b>	Steven Coyne <a href="mailto:steven.coyne@mail.utoronto.ca">steven.coyne@mail.utoronto.ca</a>	Clinton Debogorski <a href="mailto:clinton.debogorski@mail.utoronto.ca">clinton.debogorski@mail.utoronto.ca</a>
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## **Course Requirements**

Tutorial Participation	10%
First Paper	15%
First Paper Revision/Extension	10%
Second Paper	30%
Final Exam	35%

## **Email Communication and Office Hours**

We will communicate with you using your utoronto email address. It is your responsibility to check your email regularly.

Likewise, email is the best way to contact the instructor or teaching assistants outside of class-time. Emails will be answered within 24 hours, or 48 hours over weekends. To ensure that your email is read promptly, put PHL 265 in the subject line.

To discuss the content of the course or substantive questions about an assignment or grade, please schedule an appointment or drop by open office hours. Due to constraints of time, we cannot cover course material or discuss grades by email.

The instructor will hold office hours by appointment, as well as weekly drop-in office hours (see above).

The TAs will hold drop-in office hours prior to the writing assignments, as well as after the first and second assignments have been turned back in. These hours will be announced later in the semester.

## **Readings**

All readings will be available as pdf files on Blackboard.

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/online/Toolbox/Blackboard/>

If you have difficulty opening a file, please contact the instructor immediately by email.

## **Lecture**

Lecture attendance is expected, but not recorded. All material on the Final Exam will be covered in lecture. Lecture slides will *not* be made available to students for any reason, but printable outlines of the lectures will be posted at least 12 hours prior to class.

**Tutorial Participation**

Tutorial sections are for discussion and review of material covered in lecture, as well as for providing some guidance with the writing assignments.

Tutorial sections meet once a week, and attendance and participation in them is worth 10% of your grade.

You have one unexcused absence for section. After that, each absence automatically decreases this portion of your grade by ½ point (out of a total of 10).

The TA’s will grade your participation in the discussion section guided by the following rough rubric.

10	Outstanding participation
9.5	Regular, high-quality participation
8.5	Frequent participation
7.5	Occasional participation
6.5	Infrequent participation
5	No active participation but attentive
2	No participation; not very attentive
0	Not mentally present in section

**Exams**

There will be a cumulative, final exam during finals week—the exact date and time will be announced on Oct. 10. The exam will most likely feature a combination of short-answer and essay questions. You will be supplied with a study guide no later than one week prior to the exam.

The final examination is scheduled and run by the Office of the Faculty Registrar (OFR) in the Final Exam Period. No test may occur in the Final Exam Period that is not scheduled by the OFR. Students who miss a final exam must petition to the Faculty through their College Registrar’s Office for an opportunity to write a deferred exam.

## **Papers**

There will be three writing assignments over the term, each addressing an assigned topic based on the assigned readings.

The first two assignments are connected. The second assignment (600-900 words) will be a revision and extension of the first paper (800-1000 words).

The third assignment (1500-1800 words) will resemble the first and second papers combined.

Topics will be distributed at least two weeks in advance of the due dates.

Papers will be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date.

## **Marking**

The final exam and writing assignments will generally be marked by the TA leading your tutorial. If you have a question or problem about the marking, you should talk to your TA about it first.

If you think you have been graded unfairly, you must write a one page explanation as to why your paper or exam warrants a higher grade. We will then take your petition into consideration. However, be aware that in considering whether your grade should be adjusted, we may determine that the initial grade was indeed incorrect—but too high, in fact, and lower it.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

Unless otherwise instructed, you are advised not to do outside research for the papers. That said, any text taken verbatim from other sources must be quoted and cited. Similarly, paraphrases and the borrowing of ideas from other sources should also be cited. Plagiarism will be dealt with severely and may result in both failing the course and having the incident permanently recorded on your academic transcript. You may talk with other students about your papers, but you must do the actual writing yourself. You are encouraged to have friends or writing tutors read over your work to proofread and give you feedback.

For the Official Policy of the University of Toronto, go to <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students>

## **Writing Resources**

This is a writing-intensive course, and you are highly encouraged to utilize available writing centres.

The Philosophy Essay Clinic

<http://undergraduate.philosophy.utoronto.ca/philosophy-essay-clinic/>

St. George Campus Writing Centres

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>

Writing Centre Workshops

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>

The Writing Centre website has also put together some useful advice on writing that you may be interested in:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>

Finally, English Language Learners may find additional resources at:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/faqs/english-as-second-language>

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

### Tentative Semester Schedule

1. Sept. 9	Aristotle, Selections from the <i>Ethics</i> and <i>Politics</i>
2. Sept. 11	Aristotle, Selections from the <i>Politics</i>
3. Sept. 16	Thomas Aquinas, Selections from <i>Summa Theologiae</i> and <i>On Kingship</i>
4. Sept. 18	Thomas Hobbes, Selections from <i>Leviathan</i>
5. Sept. 23	Thomas Hobbes, Selections from <i>Leviathan</i>
6. Sept. 25	John Locke, Selections from <i>The Second Treatise</i>
7. Sept. 30	John Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> XI, XIX; <i>Letter Concerning Toleration</i>
8. Oct. 2	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> (selections)
<b>Thursday, Oct. 2</b>	<b>First Assignment: First Paper Due (15% of total grade)</b>
9. Oct. 7	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , Bk I (chs. 1, 6-9); II (chs. 1, 3-7, 11-12); III (chs. 1, 4, 12-13); IV (chs. 1-2)
10. Oct. 9	G.W.F. Hegel, "Struggle for Recognition" from Hegel's <i>Encyclopedia of Philosophical Sciences</i> , v. 3
11. Oct. 14	G.W.F. Hegel, <i>Philosophy of Right</i> , §§189-208, 230-256
12. Oct. 16	Karl Marx, selections
13. Oct. 21	Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, selections
14. Oct. 23	J.S. Mill, selections from <i>Utilitarianism</i> and <i>On Liberty</i>
15. Oct. 28	John Rawls, "Distributive Justice," §§1-2; "Distributive Justice: Some Addenda"
16. Oct. 30	John Rawls, "Some Reasons for the Maximin Criterion"; "A Kantian Conception of Equality"
<b>Thursday, Oct. 30</b>	<b>Second Assignment: First Paper Revision/Extension Due (10% of total)</b>

	<b>grade)</b>
<b>Monday, Nov. 3</b>	<b>Last Day to Drop the Course</b>
17. Nov. 4	Michael Sandel, "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self"
18. Nov. 6	John Rawls, "The Idea of an Overlapping Consensus"
19. Nov. 11	Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition"
20. Nov. 13	Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition"; "K.A. Appiah, "Identity, Authenticity, and Survival"
21. Nov. 18	Fall Break – No class
22. Nov. 20	Martha Nussbaum, "Rawls and Feminism"
23. Nov. 25	Martha Nussbaum, "Needs for Care, Problems of Justice" from <i>Beyond the Social Contract: Toward Global Justice; Women and Human Development</i>
24. Nov. 27	Martha Nussbaum, "Beyond National Boundaries: Capabilities and Global Justice" from <i>Beyond the Social Contract: Toward Global Justice</i>
<b>Thursday, Nov. 27</b>	<b>Third Assignment/Second Paper due (30% of total grade)</b>
<b>Nov. 8-19 - Finals Week (Exact date and time of exam to be announced Oct. 10)</b>	<b>Final Exam (35% of total grade)</b>