

PHL 265F – INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3, and by appointment. JHB 408

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Modern states claim to be entitled to tell people what to do and to force them to do as they are told. They claim the power to regulate many aspects of life, to enforce property rights, to collect taxes and decide how to spend them, and give their officials powers that private persons lack. These powers are made more puzzling by the thought that nobody is entitled to rule by birth. In the course we will look at philosophical accounts of the basis of these remarkable powers, including such questions as: under what conditions could they be legitimate? Are there limits on their legitimate exercise? How are they related to ideas about freedom and equality? Our primary texts will be drawn from the social contract tradition. Writers in that tradition seek to justify the state's powers by constructing an account of life in a "state of nature" without political institutions, and arguing that people in such a condition would have adequate reasons to set up a state. The authors we will read have very different conceptions of what life in such a condition would be like, and very different views about what it would be for the state to solve them. As a result, they also have different conceptions of the powers that a legitimate state could have. In addition to classic discussions by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Kant, we will also read contemporary versions of their positions, and important critiques of the social contract enterprise by Hume and Marx.

TEXTS:

Hobbes Leviathan

Locke Second Treatise of Government

Rousseau The Social Contract

Kant Metaphysics of Morals

Marx (excerpts)

All readings are available in searchable format on the course website. You can print them out if you wish, or bring your laptop or tablet to class. Additional recommended readings are also available.

SCHEDULE

Monday September 10	Introduction
Wednesday September 12	Man as a Mechanism, State as Artifact. Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : Hobbes' Introduction, Ch. 10-11
Monday September 17	No Class - Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday September 19	The State of Nature. <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch. 13, 17
Monday September 24	The Right and Laws of Nature. <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch. 14-15, 20-21 Optional: Kavka, "Hobbes's Reply to the Foole"
Wednesday September 26	No Class - Yom Kippur
Monday October 1	Obligations and Consent. Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch. 18, 19, 31
Wednesday October 3	The Sovereign. Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch. 16, 17 18-19, 28, 30
Monday October 8	No Class - Thanksgiving

Wednesday October 10	The State of Nature. Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> : Ch. 1-3 and Ch. 6 §§52-55
Monday October 15	Property. Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> : Ch. 4, 5
Wednesday October 17	Nozick, “Lockean Justice in Holdings” (Blackboard) 45-60, 71-78
Monday October 22	First Paper Due Entry into Political Society. Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> : Ch. 6 – 9
Wednesday October 24	Consent. Simmons, “Tacit Consent and Political Obligation”
Monday October 29	The Right of Revolution. Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> : Ch. 10-19
Wednesday October 31	Hume, “Of the Original Contract” (on Blackboard)
Monday November 5	Entry into Political Society. Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> : Books I-II Book IV ch 1, 2 (Recommended: Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, Part II)
Wednesday November 7	As Free as Before? No new reading. (Recommended: Rorty: “Rousseau’s Therapeutic Experiments”)
Monday November 12	No class – November break
Wednesday November 14	Government and Society. Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> : Book III and Book IV Ch. 3 and Ch. 5-9
Monday November 19	Kant, Introduction to the Doctrine of Right + Private Right
Wednesday November 21	Kant, Public Right I (The State and Separation of Powers)
Monday November 26	Kant, Public Right II (No Right to Revolution)
Wednesday November 28	Second Paper Due Kant, Public Right III (Police Powers and Economy)
Monday December 3	Kant, Right of Nations and Cosmopolitan Right, + Perpetual Peace
Wednesday December 5	Marx

REQUIREMENTS: you must write two papers, each of 1000 words, each worth 30 percent of your grade. The first is due October 22, and the second November 28. Paper topics will be distributed well in advance. There will be a final examination in this course, worth 30 percent of your grade. A list of study questions from which the examination questions will be drawn will be distributed in advance. The remaining 10 percent of your grade will be based on tutorial participation.

You must submit papers by the assignments link on the course Blackboard site, **with your name as the name of the file attached**, and your e-mail address (together with your name and student number) on the first page of the paper by noon on the day they are due. If you experience technical difficulties with Blackboard, you may also send a copy of your paper to PHL265F@gmail.com for submission verification purposes.

A penalty of 3% per day will be assessed for late papers without proper documentation. The only documentation that will be accepted is (i) in cases of illness, a University of Toronto “Student Medical Certificate” (available from the Arts and Science Website), (ii) in case of personal issues, a letter from your college registrar. You must also file an [Absence Declaration](#) on the Faculty of Arts and Science Website.

Please note that the lateness clock runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and starts at noon. If you hand in a hard copy instead, your paper will be treated as late.

TUTORIALS:

This is a large class, and in order for you to have an opportunity to engage with the material more fully, there will be weekly tutorials in the course, beginning the second week of classes. Your written work will be graded by your tutorial leader. 10% of your grade will be based on tutorial participation. You will receive an e-mail telling you your tutorial location before the first meeting.

Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website

Like many other courses, PHL 265 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the PHL265 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the PHL265 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses. If you have difficulty with accessing readings for Kafka, Nozick, Simmons, Ripstein or Rorty articles from off campus, you may need to paste <http://myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login?url=> **in front of the link** in your browser.

Activating your UTORid and Password

If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to www.utorid.utoronto.ca. Under the "First Time Users" area, click on "activate your UTORid" (if you are new to the university) or "create your UTORid" (if you are a returning student), then follow the instructions. New students who use the link to "activate your UTORid" will find reference to a "Secret Activation Key". This was originally issued to you when you picked up your Tcard at the library. If you have lost your Secret Activation Key you can call 416-978-HELP or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons on the ground floor of Robarts Library to be issued a new one. **The course instructor will not be able to help you with this.** 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can also answer any other questions you may have about your UTORid and password.

Email Communication with the Course Instructor

At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system.

You can do that by using the following instructions:

To submit the information to activate your UTORid and password (see above), you will need to click the "Validate" button. Follow the instructions on the subsequent screens to receive your utoronto.ca address. Once you have your UofT email address, go to the ROSI system (www.rosi.utoronto.ca), log in and update the system with your new UofT email address.

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>