



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

**PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME
2008 TRIMESTER 1**

PHIL/POLS 262

MORAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Lecturer: Dr. Joshua Glasgow
Room: Murphy 721
Phone: 463-6902
Email: joshua.glasgow@vuw.ac.nz

Lecture Times: Tuesday, 9:00-11:50
Venue: HM 104

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

Additional Information

The schedule of readings and lectures is *tentative*. Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in lectures and posted on Blackboard.

Course content

- Week 1** *Introduction: the project of political philosophy*
26 Feb. Hobbes' Leviathan, chapters 13-18, 20
 (www.earlymoderntexts.com, pp. 1, 52-80, 86-90)
- Week 2** Locke, Second Treatise of Government,
4 March Paragraphs: 4, 6-14, 16-20, 25-34, 37, 39-43, 45-50, 87-90, 93, 95-101, 113-
 115, 119, 122-131, 211-220, 224-226
 (www.earlymoderntexts.com, pp. 1, 3-8, 10-18, 27-31, 35-39, 64-69)
- Week 3** Rousseau, Discourse & Social Contract, excerpts
11 March
- Week 4** **9:00-10:15** *In-Class Test*
18 March 10:20-11:50 Mill, Utilitarianism, Chapters 1-2, & On Liberty, Chapter 1
 (www.earlymoderntexts.com, pp. 1-17, & 1-8)
 Marx/Engels, "Communist Manifesto"
 Plato's Republic, Books II, IV, & V, excerpts
- Week 5** UNIVERSITY CLOSED 25 MARCH
- Week 6** Rawls, A Theory of Justice, selections

1 April

Week 7 Nozick, Anarchy, State, Utopia, selections

8 April

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK

Week 8 **9:00-10:15** *In-Class Test*
29 April

Week 9 van Parijs, “The Highest Sustainable Basic Income”
6 May Fried, “Left-Libertarianism: A Review Essay”
Vallentyne, Steiner, and Otsuka, “Why Left-Libertarianism Is Not Incoherent,
Indeterminate, or Irrelevant: A Reply to Fried”

Week 11 Young, “Displacing the Distributive Paradigm”
13 May Fraser, “From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a ‘Post-Socialist’ Age”

Week 11 Taylor, “Atomism,” pp. 508-520
20 May Brighouse and Swift, “Equality, Priority, and Positional Goods”

Week 12 Anderson, “What is the Point of Equality?”
27 May Arneson, “Luck Egalitarianism and Prioritarianism”
Time Permitting: Other Readings TBA

Course objectives

This course will investigate what justification there is for having a state and what kind of a state we should have. Students passing this course should have an adequate grasp on the major figures in the history of political philosophy and an adequate understanding of contemporary debates in political philosophy over liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, and the politics of difference.

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to this course. This includes 3 hours of lectures per week.

Readings

See Course Content above for readings.

Essential texts:

Readings availability TBA

Assessment

- **2 In-Class Tests** (30% of final grade each). Students will be required to sit two in-class, closed-book tests. One will cover Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau; the other will cover Mill, Marx/Engels, and Plato. Each test should take no longer than 75 minutes to complete, and will be conducted during the usual course meeting time (on 18 March and 29 April). Note that barring a *significant* emergency, make-ups will not be allowed. If the emergency is medical, a doctor's certificate must be provided, and the make-up must take place as soon as possible after the emergency. Any non-medical emergencies must be demonstrated as legitimate.
- **1 Final Essay** (40% of final grade). This essay (aimed at 2000 words, absolute limit of 2500 words, no padding allowed) will address material covered in Weeks 8-12. Topics will be announced no later than Week 10. Plagiarized essays (no matter what the extent of the plagiarism) will receive an automatic zero. Extreme cases may result in University academic disciplinary procedures being invoked (see below). This essay will be due on 9 June at 1:00pm. Again, barring exceptional emergencies, late papers will not be accepted. A hard copy of this essay must be handed into me, either in person, or by giving it to Sophia Zhao for me in MY518.
 - Note: retain a copy of your essay as back-up.

Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

These assessment procedures are designed to facilitate and evaluate analytic and synthetic thinking, reading, and writing about the course's topics.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- b) Sit the in-class tests

NB: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

Penalties

Barring emergency, late work will not be accepted.

Aegrotats

Please note that under the Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of **first trimester** courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 12 May 2008**.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.

- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were ones own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct. All cases will be recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

The University requires that certain information be communicated to students, either in the course outline or electronically (ref. Assessment Handbook 3.3). The current version of this information (adapted for FHSS courses) is below, and has also been saved as a separate document in the Common Folder (M:\Common\Course Administration\Course Outlines). This may be appended to your course outline without alteration.

Students should familiarise themselves with the University’s policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under “about Victoria” on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under “Course Outline General Information” at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support