
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY in Fall 2019 (PL2003B)

Course Code	PL2003B	Professor(s)	Julian Culp
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L19
Class Schedule	TF: 09:00-10:20 in Q-604	Office Hours	Tuesday + Friday 11h00-12h00 and by appointment
Credits	4	Email	jculp@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Political philosophy forms that branch of philosophy that reflects on the specificity of the political. Why are humans, as Aristotle argued, political animals? How are they political? What are the means and ends of the political, and how best does one organize the political with such questions in mind?

The course will study major Western political philosophies such as Liberalism, Marxism and Feminism, and offer a systematic and historically informed approach to the fundamental questions of political theory and practice. More specifically, in examining these currents of political thought, the course will examine the fundamental normative question of How should we live together? and place particular emphasis on these four related questions:

1. Which principles should we use for critically analyzing politics?
2. What is the most central aspect of politics?
3. What would constitute an ideal political order?
4. What would be the most important political change here and now?

This course pays special attention to close reading and discussion of seminal texts from, among others, Hobbes, Rawls, Nussbaum and Young, as well as on nurturing a discussion culture in the classroom. The course will include *lectures*, *student presentations*, *learning activities in small groups* and *seminar-style discussions* concerning key figures and texts, as well as major philosophical arguments and theories regarding politics.

Course Learning Outcomes

mastery of key concepts

Development of rigorous, critical thinking about the political

Competence in written and oral exposition of philosophical and political concepts

(Philosophical reading and argumentation) Reconstruct, step by step, a philosophical argument concerning one of the themes of this course from premise to conclusion

(Written expression) Write a philosophy essay, focusing on the clear presentation of a critical analysis of a primary text so as to produce an argument that answers a philosophical question.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

Schedule

NB: This schedule is subject to change over the course of the semester.

Week 1 – Introduction & Utilitarianism

Sept. 3 Introduction: What is Political Philosophy?

Reading (in class) Kant, Immanuel. 1784. “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?” (excerpt)

Sept. 6: What is Utilitarianism?

Required reading: Mill, John Stuart. 1871. *Utilitarianism*. **ONLY pp. 54-64.**

Week 2 – Utilitarianism

Sept. 10: What is Owed to the Global Poor?

Required reading: Singer, Peter. 1972. "Famine, Affluence, and Morality." **ONLY pp. 229-236.**

Sept. 13: No class

Week 3 – Liberalism

Sept. 17: The Social Contract Tradition

Required reading: Hobbes, Thomas. 1668. *Leviathan*, **ONLY Part I, section 13; Part II, section 17.**

Sept. 20: Justice as Fairness

Rawls, John. 1972. "Two Principles of Justice." (excerpts)

*** 1st Critical Reply is due.***

Week 4 - Liberalism

Sept. 24: Cosmopolitan Liberal Justice

Required reading: Beitz, Charles. 1999. *Political Theory and International Relations*. **ONLY pp. 127-9, 143-53.**

Sept. 27: International Liberal Justice

Required reading: Rawls, John. 1999. *The Law of Peoples*. **ONLY pp. 3-5, 35-9, 113-20.**

Week 5 – Socialism & Marxism

Oct. 1: Socialist Equality of Opportunity

Required reading: Cohen, G.A. 1999. "Socialism and Equality of Opportunity." (excerpts)

Oct. 4: Is Capitalism Undermining Itself?

Marx, Karl and Engels, Friedrich. 1848. *The Communist Manifesto*. **ONLY pp. 14-21.**

Week 6 – Libertarianism

Oct. 8, 18h30: Talk by Prof. Regina Kreide (Universität Giessen) “(Un-)Just Europe: Migration within and to Europe” – no class at 9h00!

Oct. 11: Is Re-Distributing Wealth Unjust?

Required reading: Nozick, Robert. 1974. *Anarchy, State and Utopia*. **ONLY pp. 149-64.**

2nd Critical Reply is due.

Week 7 – Communitarianism

Oct. 15: Does Liberalism Undermine Community?

Required reading: Sandel, Michael. 1984. “The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self.”

Oct. 18: Talk by Kerstin Olsen (AUP) in class: “Model(ing) Justice”

Week 8 - Feminism

Oct. 22: What is the Place of Gender and Family in Politics?

Required reading: Susan Moller Okin. 1987. *Justice, Sex, and the Family*, **ONLY pp. 89-97.**

Oct. 25: Midterm Exam in Class

Week 9 – Fall Break

Oct. 29: No Class

Nov. 1: No Class

Week 10 – Discourse and Democratic Theory

Nov. 5: Who Decides Who Gets What?

Required reading: Young, Iris Marion. 1990. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, **ONLY pp. 15-24.**

Nov. 8: How to Conceive Justice? Distributive and Political Approaches

Required reading: Forst, Rainer. 2014. *Justification and Critique*. **ONLY pp. 17-22, 33-37.**

Week 11 – Multiculturalism

Nov. 12: Armistice Break

Nov. 15: How to Recognize Cultural Minorities?

Required reading: Taylor, Charles. 1994. "The Politics of Recognition." **ONLY pp. 25-44.**

Week 12 – Capabilitarianism

Nov. 19: What is Social Development?

Required reading: Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. **ONLY pp. 3-12.**

Nov. 22: The Capabilities Approach to Human Development

Required reading: Nussbaum, Martha. 2011. *Creating Capabilities*. **ONLY pp. 29-45.**

3rd Critical Reply is due.

Week 13 – Post-Colonial & Post-Development Theory

Nov. 26: What is Post-Colonial Thought?

Required reading: Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. **ONLY pp. 9-31.**

Nov. 29: The Idea of Development as Ideology

Required readings:

- Esteva, Gustavo. 2010. "Development." **ONLY pp. 1-8.**
- Escobar, Arturo. 2012. "Encountering Development." **ONLY pp. 39-44.**

Week 14 – Student Presentation of Term Paper Outlines

Dec. 3: 1st Half of Student Presentations

Dec. 6: 2nd Half of Student Presentations

Week 15 – Final Sessions

Dec. 17, 8h30: Final Group Presentations

****Term Paper is due.****

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required and will be taken every class. You may miss up to three sessions without excuse – though each of these three as well as all other unexcused absences will lower your participation grade by 5.00 score points. For example, if you miss one class unexcused, you will receive 95.00 score points instead of 100.00 score points as participation grade.

More than three unexcused absences will be reported to the *Student Development* office. In such a case you might also be asked to withdraw from the course. Absences may only be considered excused if they are officially excused, that is, in cases of medically documented student illness, participation in course-related study trips, family emergency or an appointment with the immigration office. It is the student's responsibility to make up work for the missed class and to communicate with the professor for that purpose.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory. Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Punctuality is essential for uninterrupted and efficient coursework. It is a sign of respect not only for the professor, but also for your fellow students. If you are more than 30 minutes late, you will be marked absent.

Grading Policy

Requirement	Relative weight for overall grade
Participation	10%
3 Critical Replies	30%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Term Paper	25%
Final Group Presentations	10%

Participation

Preparation

Students are expected to come to every class meeting on time and be prepared to participate actively. The *preparation* includes, in particular, the *careful reading* of the assigned texts in advance of the planned session. When reading you should take notes and excerpt the core ideas of the texts – that is, you should engage in active reading.

Participation in Class

Active participation encompasses the active engagement in the discussions during class and in the work group activities. In discussions, all participants are expected to show respect and courtesy.

Please silence all cell phones prior to the start of class and *do not use electronic devices* (laptops, phones, etc.) during class, unless truly necessary. Please bring your physical copies of the readings, that is, printed out PDFs.

Critical Replies (10% each – 30% in total of overall grade)

You will be expected to write 3 critical replies to set questions that concern the readings. You can find these set questions on Blackboard. These critical replies will guide your reading, foster your understanding and assessment of the texts, and prepare you for classroom discussions.

The critical replies should be about 750 words. They should be submitted via Blackboard

as *Word* document (.doc or .docx) or *PDF* file *by 9h00* (before class) on the day on which day are due. The font should be Times New Roman, the font size should be 12 pt., the spacing should be 1.5, and the name of the file should be YourLastName_Reply.doc(x). More information will be provided along the semester.

Due dates:

1st Critical Reply: Sept. 20 (Week 3), by 9h00 (before class)

2nd Critical Reply: Oct. 11 (Week 6), by 9h00 (before class)

3rd Critical Reply: Nov. 2 (Week 12), by 9h00 (before class)

Your critical replies will be graded according to the following, equally relevant, *five criteria*: coherence of the thesis, strength of the argument, adequate use of relevant primary texts (and secondary literature), clarity of structure, and correctness of form. The grade that you will receive will be calculated on the basis of this scheme:

Late critical replies will be marked down 2.00 score points per day (24 hours) of lateness. For example, if you submit a 94.00/A/4.0 critical reply 10 hours late, you will receive 92.00/A-/3.7. If you submit the same critical reply 50 hours late, you will receive 88.00/B+/3.3. Extensions of the deadline are only possible for serious reasons. In general, an extension can only be granted if you apply for it *before* the deadline expires.

Midterm Exam (25% of overall grade)

After the first half of the course you will be expected to review the material and write an exam. The exam will consist of a set of questions on the materials covered in the course. These questions will contain knowledge questions regarding key terms and intellectual positions as well as short essay questions that ask you to *reconstruct* and *discuss* philosophical texts and arguments that this course addresses. More information will be provided along the semester.

Date: Oct. 25 (Week 8), 2019, 9h00-10h20

Term Paper (25%)

At the end of the course, you will be expected to write a term paper of *about 2,000 words* in which you answer a question from a list of set questions. The paper should be uploaded on Blackboard (Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 spaced, file name: YourLastName_TermPaper.doc(x))) by *Tuesday, Dec. 17, 8h30*.

There will be the opportunity to present a first draft (or outline) of your paper and receive

(ungraded) feedback. During the last week of the semester (Week 14) – on Dec. 3 and Dec. 6 – all students will be asked to present a short 10 minutes summary of their projected paper.

The aim of the term paper is to discuss a philosophical question based on the texts and theories you have encountered in the course. Your discussion should include (1) *an analysis* of key conceptions and arguments regarding content and structure, and (2) *a critical assessment* of the adequacy, effectiveness, and applicability of the arguments and the position under consideration, and (3) *the defense of a thesis* you choose to adopt for the purpose of this assignment by producing effective arguments *for* this thesis and rebut relevant arguments *against* it.

Help the reader to follow your line of reasoning by making it explicit: An introduction should outline what you will present and why it is interesting. The main body should develop your argument(s) step by step, and a conclusion should sum them up, with a final evaluation of your findings.

If you desire to discuss your term paper personally, you are asked to submit a draft by Sunday, Dec. 8. Additional office hours will be made available during Reading Days from Dec. 9 to Dec. 13.

Due date: Dec. 17 (Week 15), 2019, 8h30

Your term paper will be graded according to the following, equally relevant, *five criteria*: coherence of the thesis, strength of the argument, adequate use of relevant primary texts (and secondary literature), clarity of structure, and correctness of form. The grade that you will receive will be calculated on the basis of this scheme:

Late term papers will be marked down 2.00 score points per day (24 hours) of lateness. For example, if you submit a 94.00/A/4.0 term paper 10 hours late, you will receive 92.00/A-/3.7. If you submit the same term paper 50 hours late, you will receive 88.00/B+/3.3. Extensions of the deadline are only possible for serious reasons. In general, an extension can only be granted if you apply for it *before* the deadline expires.

Final Group Presentation (10%)

We will have a Final Group Presentation session during the final exam period on Dec. 17, from 8h30 to 11h00. This will give you the opportunity to present in a small group an argument regarding one of the theories or positions that we have discussed throughout the semester. You should use either handouts or powerpoint/prezi slides for your presentations.

The presentations will be graded according to the following, equally relevant, criteria: adequacy, strength, and originality of the argument(s); convincing examples; ability to respond adequately to objections; engagement with the audience. More information will be provided along the way.

Date: Dec. 17 (Week 15), 2019, 8h30-11h00

Grading

The grades for the requirements and for the entire course are based on this 4.00 system:

Letter Grade	4.0 Scale	Score Points	Meaning
A	4.0	94.00-100.00	Excellent
A-	3.7	90.00-93.99	Excellent
B+	3.3	87.00-89.99	Good
B	3.0	84.00-86.99	Good
B-	2.7	80.00-83.99	Good
C+	2.3	77.00-79.99	Satisfactory
C	2.0	74.00-76.99	Satisfactory
C-	1.7	70.00-73.99	Satisfactory
D+	1.3	67.00-69.99	Unsatisfactory
D	1.0	64.00-66.99	Unsatisfactory
D-	0.7	60.00-63.99	Unsatisfactory
F	0	0.00-59.00	Failure

Other

Contact Information

For consultation and meetings, please contact me before or after class, or by e-mail via jculp@aup.edu or during office hours.

Blackboard

Course-related material, such as readings, lecture slides, assignment tasks, etc., will be made available on the Blackboard portal. Make sure that you have joined the course and that you adjust your settings to receive notifications and messages. Important up-dates will be posted on the Blackboard course page.

English Language Proficiency

As an Anglophone university, AUP is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, the evaluation includes English proficiency. Students can obtain help on specific academic assignments in the university *Writing Lab* and from the teaching assistant Katelyn Owens (see below for her contact information). For more information about the Writing Lab, please visit <https://www.aup.edu/academics/academic-and-career-resources/academic-resource-center/writing-lab> – email: writinglab@aup.edu.

Academic Misconduct

All work that you submit must be your own. Your sources must be properly cited. For example, direct quotations from others must be in quotation marks. If you have questions about how to attribute your sources, talk to the professor, the teaching assistant or to the staff of AUP's *Writing Lab* within the Academic Resource Center:

<https://www.aup.edu/academics/academic-and-career-resources/academic-resource-center/writing-lab> – email: writinglab@aup.edu.

Plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly. You should familiarize yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.aup.edu/academics/offices-resources/academic-resource-center/writing-lab/plagiarism>. For the sake of fairness and academic integrity, and in order to maintain the reputation of the degree you are earning with us, there will be no tolerance with plagiarism and other such forms of academic misconduct. Any conduct, whether intentional or unintentional, which creates the impression that some of the coursework you submit for grading is your own achievement when it is not will be reported to the *Academic Integrity Office* and may result in an "F" grade for the whole course.

Sometimes students present alien work as their own not because they want to earn an unfair advantage over their peers but rather because they feel unable to cope with the workload for some academic or personal reason. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to contact the professor or AUP's student guidance counselors Pamela Montfort via pmontfort@aup.edu or Yann Louis via ylouis@aup.edu. There is a lot that can be done to help you!

Teaching Assistant

Katelyn Owens is the teaching assistant of this course. She will help you with your writing and presentations requirements.