



PHIL 128 - Social and Political Philosophy Course Outline

Approval Date:

Effective Date: 01/31/2018

SECTION A

Unique ID Number

Discipline(s) Philosophy

Division Arts and Humanities

Subject Area Philosophy

Subject Code PHIL

Course Number 128

Course Title Social and Political Philosophy

TOP Code/SAM Code 1509.00 - Philosophy / -

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Textbook update.

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment 50

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description This course investigates issues central to the question, "How can we best live together?" It addresses the philosophical underpinnings of the theories of justice, freedom, natural law, personal and civic responsibilities, social and political affiliation, cultural diversity vis-a-vis the aforementioned and the constitution of the good society. Students will also develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Schedule Description

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s): *None*

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended: *None*

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. 1. Examine and evaluate the philosophical origins of modern social and political theory.
2. Identify, analyze and compare modern cultural values relating to the creation and maintenance of "good" societies.
3. Describe and appraise the distinctions found in extant social and political models, specifically addressing the rights of human beings and other sentient beings in modern societies.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define, identify and give examples of the historical philosophical theories that gave birth to modern social and political models.
- B. Define and give examples of the terms "equality", "power", "social contract", and "anarchy".
- C. Describe the theory of structuration, listing the three types of societies and give an example of each type of society.
- D. Summarize the major historical developments leading to class-based and class societies and appraise the value of class versus classless societies.
- E. Describe and give examples of the notions of power and equality found in tribal societies.
- F. Summarize and evaluate the major themes of each author, recalling the assigned works by Thucydides, Pericles, Rousseau and Machiavelli.
- G. Describe and give examples of the notions of power and equality found in class-based and class societies.
- H. Recalling the assigned works by Plato, Hobbes, Lock and Aristotle, summarize and evaluate the major themes of each political philosopher.
- I. Summarize Wolff's "In Defense of Anarchism" and critically analyze the notion of the social contract from Wolff's point of view.
- J. Summarize the major themes of Plato's "Republic" and Thomas Aquinas' "Summa Theologica".
- K. Recalling the assigned works by John Stuart Mill and John Rawls, summarize and evaluate the major themes of each political philosopher.

- L. List and describe the four major views of "justice".
- M. Recalling the assigned writings by Marx and Engels, summarize and evaluate the major themes of each political philosopher.
- N. Describe the major elements of "classical liberalism".
- O. Recalling the readings of "The Constitution of the United States", "The Declaration of the Rights of Man", and "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights", summarize each document and compare and contrast distinctions and similarities among all three.
- P. Summarize the major themes of Marxism and collectivism, and describe the conditions under which Marx believed revolution would take place in a given society.
- Q. Summarize the history and development of the notion of "human rights" and describe the conditions under which civil disobedience may be appropriate.
- R. Recalling Plato's "Defence of Socrates" and Shelley's "The Mask of Anarchy", summarize and evaluate the major themes of each author.
- S. Recalling Henry David Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience", Martin Luther King's "March on Washington Address" and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", and Mohandas Gandhi's "Young India", summarize and evaluate each work.
- T. Create and describe the ideal "good society" drawing from the ideas of at least three of the political philosophers read in class.
- U. Go forth and create the "good" society commencing with you personally and your family, then your city, state, nation and the world.
- V.

3. Course Content

1. Definition of "Political Philosophy".
2. How to Read and Write about Philosophy.
3. Equality, Power, the Social Contract, and Anarchy.
4. Theory of Structuration: The Three Types of Society.
5. Historical Developments Leading to Class-Based and Class Societies.
6. Power and Equality in Tribal Societies.
7. Thucydides' "History of the Peloponnesian War".
8. Pericles' "Funeral Oration".
9. Rousseau's "Discourse on the Origin of Inequality".
10. Machiavelli's "The Prince".
11. Power and Equality in Class-Based and Class Societies.
12. Introduction to the Social Contract.
13. Plato's "Crito".
14. Hobbes' "Leviathan".
15. Locke's "An Essay Concerning the True Original, Extent and End of Civil Government" and "Second Treatise of Government".
16. Aristotle's "Politics".
17. Wolff's "In Defense of Anarchism".
18. Power and anarchy.
19. Plato's "Republic".
20. Thomas Aquinas' "Summa Theologica".
21. The Four Views of Justice: Merit, Natural Law, Utility, and Fairness.
22. John Stuart Mill's "Utilitarianism".
23. John Rawls' "A Theory of Justice".
24. John Stuart Mill's "On Liberty".
25. The Individual and the State.
26. Classical Liberalism.

27. Marx and Engels' "Communist Manifesto" and other writings.
28. Marxism, Collectivism, and Revolution.
29. Human Rights.
30. The Constitution of the United States.
31. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen".
32. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
33. History and Development of Human Rights Movements.
34. Civil Disobedience.
35. Plato's "Defence of Socrates".
36. Shelley's "The Mask of Anarchy".
37. The Declaration of Independence.
38. Henry David Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience".
39. Martin Luther King's "March on Washington Address" and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail".
40. Mohandas Gandhi's "Young India".
41. Civil Disobedience in the 21st Century.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Activity: Powerpoint, films, podcasts.

Critique: Instructor will offer spontaneous oral critiques of student comments during class discussions as well as written critiques of assigned essays.

Discussion: Class discussion will be conducted intermittently at appropriate intervals during the lecture presentations.

Lecture: Lectures corresponding to the course outline will be given each class session.

Projects: Exceptionally good written assignments will be critiqued in class and used as models for future essays.

Other: MODE OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture and class discussion.

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- Two multiple choice unit exams and one final exam.

Papers -- Two one to two-page summary essays.

Projects -- One five-page comparative paper at end of semester.

Home Work -- Readings, outside research and essays.

Final Exam -- comprehensive multiple-choice final exam.

Mid Term -- Two multiple-choice exams.

Additional assessment information:

MINIMAL STANDARDS FOR PASSING: At least 75% of the class will achieve 70% or higher on their overall cumulative scores taken from the unit exams, the final exam, the two short papers and one longer contrastive analysis paper.

Examples of Essay Questions for Papers:

- 1.) Summarize and critique Locke's "Second Treatise".
- 2.) Compare and contrast John Rawl's "Theory of Justice" with Utilitarianism.

Sample Test Questions:

- 1.) Describe the three types of societies that Giddens' presents and for each type give one example studied in class .

2.) Compare and contrast the major themes of Marxism with the Declaration of Independence.

Students will be encouraged to participate in class discussion offering analysis of the topic at hand. Instructor will note the quality of the remarks, and students who offer exceptional analyses will earn the right to be recognized as model thinkers in the class.

Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Examples of Reading Assignments:

- 1.) Read "How to Read and Write about Philosophy".
- 2.) Read Section One of Course Reader.
- 3.) Read Plato's "Crito".

Please refer to Course Content section, where all reading assignments are listed.

B. Writing Assignments

1. Two one to two-page summaries of selected reading assignments.
2. One five-page written assignment comparing political philosophers.

Specific Examples of Writing Assignment #1:

- A. Critically compare and contrast the notions of "power" and "equality" in tribal societies versus in contemporary American society.
- B. Describe the four views of justice studied in class, and critically evaluate which one(s), if any, would offer American society a higher standard of justice.

Specific Examples of Writing Assignment #2:

- A. Using John Rawls' Theory of Justice, describe the changes that would need to take place in American society in order to bring about a higher standard of justice. Be sure to compare and contrast Rawls' view with at least one other political philosopher that we studied in class.
- B. Drawing upon as many of the political philosophers we studied in class that you need, describe a unique, viable political system that would help to make American society stronger and healthier. Be sure to describe what you mean by "stronger" and "healthier".

C. Other Assignments

Two unit exams and a comprehensive final exam at the end of the semester.

Examples of exam questions:

- 1.) Summarize John Rawls' A THEORY OF JUSTICE and contrast it with the main ideas of Utilitarianism.

2.) Summarize Marx's and Engel's THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO and compare and contrast the major ideas with THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Cahn, Steven M.

Title: Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Date of Publication: 2014

Edition: 3rd Edition

B. Other required materials/supplies.