

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-18**

Philosophy 2801F: Contemporary Political Philosophy

Term: Fall 2017 T: 2:30 - 4:30 Th: 2:30 - 3:30	Instructor: Dean Proessel Office Hours: T, Th, 1:30 – 2:30 Email: dproesse@uwo.ca
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DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to contemporary political philosophy. Our main objective will be to understand, and to critically engage, the major schools of thought in political philosophy that have emerged in the 20th Century. We will begin by looking at political philosophies associated with classical utilitarianism, and then examine one major alternative to utilitarianism—the conception of liberal egalitarian democracy, as developed by John Rawls. From there, we will examine the most significant critical responses to the liberal picture of democracy, including libertarianism, Marxism, communitarianism, feminism and multiculturalism. Throughout the course we will seek to understand what these schools of thought say about the political ideals of justice, freedom, equality and community.

TEXTS

Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2002)

OBJECTIVES

- Develop an understanding of the major schools of contemporary political philosophy, their differences and problems.
- Develop the ability to critically assess the plausibility and consistency of these political philosophies.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills by preparing two term papers.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Paper	30%
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Final Exam	40%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.