

## **Political Philosophy – PHIL 122, Section 1; Hybrid Class**

Spring 2024 – M 300PM-415PM, W Online

Location: Douglass Hall 110

Instructor: Professor John Park

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Office: Mendocino 3016

Office Hours: M 415PM-430PM, W 115PM-400PM

An appointment for different times other than listed can be made via email.

Zoom appointments in lieu of face-to-face appointments can be made via email.

### **Course Description**

A philosophical examination of the individual, the community, and rights; the conflict between individual rights, the common good; various conceptions of justice, equality, liberty and the public good; and the relationship of politics to ethics, economics, law; war and peace.

### **Learning goals**

- Describe and distinguish key concepts in political philosophy, including concepts such as justice, rights, liberty, equality, virtue, obligation, etc.
- Read and comprehend philosophical texts, classical or contemporary, in the area of political philosophy.
- Discuss core problems in political philosophy, such as what is the best form of government, international human rights, what is justice, just war theory, minority rights, etc.
- Present clear and concise explanations and arguments about normative political problems.
- Distinguish the basic political theories and approaches, including: liberalism, libertarianism, social contract theory, democracy, and one or more non-traditional or non-western positions.
- Apply basic political philosophy concepts and approaches to solving practical problems in politics, including: racial discrimination, just distribution of goods, just war theory, property rights, equality, liberty, etc.

### **Area C2 Learning Outcomes**

The learning objectives associated with C2 should focus on the human condition.

Specifically, students completing C2 requirements should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
- B. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
- C. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

## Summary of Requirements

	<u>Weighted % of Final Grade</u>
3 Tests	30% each
Reading Quizzes	10%

Each graded item will be out of 100 points except for the daily quizzes. Each reading quiz will be out of 2 points.

**Extra credit will be given for Philosophy Symposium attendance. 3% extra credit points will be given on a test for one attendance, with a maximum total of 3% extra credit points given in a semester.**

**Extra credit of a third of a letter grade, such as from an A- to an A, will be given on a student's final grade for informed and consistent participation throughout the semester. Informed participation is where I can tell you've done the reading. Consistent participation is where you participate in class discussions for nearly every class.**

- Three non-cumulative, closed-book, closed-note in-class tests will be spread throughout the semester that will test your knowledge of the material, your ability to critically evaluate the readings, and apply political philosophies to novel situations. They will be based on the readings, lectures, and group discussions. They will contain essay and multiple-choice questions. You will need to buy a Scantron 882-e form for each test.
- There will be a short in-class quiz before the start of every new assigned reading that we begin discussing in class. This is to test whether you have done the assigned reading. It's also an attendance and tardiness check. Your own loose-leaf paper is required to take these quizzes.

### Grading Floors

93=A, 90=A-, 87=B+, 83=B, 80=B-, 77=C+, 73=C, 70=C-, 67=D+, 63=D, 60=D-

### Textbook (hardback preferred)

- *An Introduction to Political Philosophy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (PP)*. Jonathan Wolff
- *The East Asian Challenge for Democracy (EACD)*. Daniel Bell and Chenyang Li
- *PDF readings found in Canvas in the "PDF's" module at the top of the course page.*

### Academic Integrity

Violations of the academic integrity policy on any examination or assignment will result in a 0 for the semester grade and will be reported to university officials. Violations will be pursued to the fullest extent. For more information on this policy, go to <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/STU-0100.htm>.

## **Sac State Honor Code & Communication Behavior**

As proud members and representatives of the Sacramento State Hornet community, we commit ourselves to actively promoting honesty, integrity, respect, and care for every person, ensuring a welcoming campus environment, and striving to help every member of our Hornet family feel a strong sense of belonging.

As Hornets, we will:

- Promote an inclusive campus and community
- Listen and respect each other's thoughts, interests, and views
- Value diversity and learn from one another
- Engage daily with mutual trust, care, and integrity
- Support a culture of honor and adhere to campus policies for honesty, ethics, and conduct
- Be proud to be Sac State Hornets

There will be discussions with students with different backgrounds and ideas, which is important for philosophical inquiry. An open and engaging classroom environment with academic freedom is needed free of ridicule and bullying, which can silence students' voices. It is fine to disagree, but one must do so respectfully. Students must adhere to the Honor Code and display respect, civility, and integrity towards other students. Any violations of this will be reported to Student Affairs and be pursued to the fullest extent, which can include expulsion from the University. Moreover, I reserve the right at my discretion to provide warnings, expulsions from the class in which a violation has occurred, and demotion of students' grades up to a failing grade for the entire semester when violations or any other behavioral problems occur. Also, any discovered violations of a right to privacy as outlined by the University concerning a person's views given in class that are improperly disclosed, will also be punished along the same or similar guidelines above. What is said in the class stays in the class. No audio and/or visual recordings of the class is permitted unless it is allowed officially by the University due to a student's learning disability.

### **Instructor Response Times**

- You should expect a reply to your email within two business days (Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM). If you don't hear a response from me within this time, only then should you send me another follow up email.
- Tests will be graded within two week's time.
- Reading quizzes will be graded within one week.

### **Classroom Policies and Procedures**

1. Read the following email guidelines before sending me your first email: <https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/internal/g6-how-to-correspond-with-your-professor.PDF>. These Philosophy Department guidelines primarily are here to cultivate proper etiquette in letter writing for your long-term career benefit in your professional life once you graduate from CSUS. Those who fail to write such emails simply will be referred back to this classroom policy.

1. An excused absence is when you send me an email prior to your class regarding an illness or family emergency. Any notification of such an absence after or during the class or assignment period of the absence will require official documentations such as a doctor's note. Continued absences in which you notify me by email before the given time period will require a doctor's note for later absences. If your absence is excused, then you will be able to make up any relevant assignments without penalty for excused days. However, if you have an excused absence, you need to notify me within 48 hours of noon on an assignment due date in order to be able to make up an assignment.
2. If you think a mistake was made in graded material, you have one week to get in touch with me on the matter for a possible correction.
3. No cellphones or laptops are allowed for use in class unless it's to use an e-book assigned for the class. Those with e-books of the textbook must come see me after the first class. Wearing earphones is not allowed during class. Continued violations of this rule will lead to grade reductions.

### **Services to Students with Disability**

Sacramento State is committed to ensuring an accessible learning environment where course or instructional content are usable by all students and faculty. If you believe that you require disability-related academic adjustments for this class, please immediately contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) to discuss eligibility. A current accommodation letter from SSWD is required before any modifications, above and beyond what is otherwise available for all other students in this class will be provided. If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916)278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me immediately after the first class. For further information, visit <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/index.html>.

### **Student Health and Counseling Services**

Your physical and mental health are important to your success as a college student. Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) in The WELL offers medical, counseling, and wellness services to help you get and stay healthy during your time at Sac State. SHCS offers: Primary Care medical services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, transgender care, and immunizations; urgent care for acute illness, injuries, and urgent counseling needs; pharmacy for prescriptions and over-the-counter products; mental health counseling, including individual sessions, group counseling, support groups, mindfulness training, and peer counseling; athletic training for sports injury rehabilitation; wellness services, including nutrition counseling, peer-led health education and wellness workshops, and free safer sex supplies; violence and sexual assault support services. Most services are covered by the Health Services fee and available at no additional cost.

Additionally, if you are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste, nausea, diarrhea, or headache) or have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID contact **Student Health & Counseling Services (SHCS) at 916-278-6461** to receive guidance and/or medical care.

You are asked to report any possible COVID-related illnesses or exposures to SHCS via this link [COVID-19 Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). You should expect a call from SHCS within 24 hours.

As an FYI, the [Sac State Mobile App](#) also has a self-assessment tool, in case you would like to screen yourself for symptoms of COVID-19. Feel free to utilize it, especially if you plan on going somewhere where others may be exposed (such as going to campus). The app will also have information on the University's latest on-campus protocols.

### **Crisis Assistance & Resource Education Support (CARES)**

If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away. The CARES office provides case management support for any enrolled student. They can be contacted via their website at: <https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/crisis-assistance-resource-education-support/>.

### **Computer Related Problems**

If you perceive there are problems with how I've set up the course page, such as that I put up the wrong PDF reading, send me an email. If there are technical computer problems, you should contact CSUS Information Resources & Technology (IRT). Their web address is [www.csus.edu/irt/](http://www.csus.edu/irt/). Their email address is [servicedesk@csus.edu](mailto:servicedesk@csus.edu), and their phone number is (916) 278-7337.

### **Title IX**

The University requires faculty and staff to report any personal disclosures of sexual misconduct including rape, dating/domestic violence and stalking to the Title IX Coordinator. Students who do not wish to report their experience to me or the Title IX Coordinator may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Student Health and Counseling Services.

### **Schedule – Subject to revision in which case an email notification will be sent**

*Day 1 contains assignments for the in-person class on Mondays. Day 2 contains assignments that have online video lectures for Wednesdays and won't be lectured on in the in-person class.*

### **BOOK ACRONYMS**

*PP = An Introduction to Political Philosophy*

*EACD = The East Asian Challenge for Democracy*

### **The State: Week 1-8**

Week of 1-29: Day 1: Syllabus & Logic Primer; Day 2: **PP The State of Nature** Introduction, *PP* Hobbes

Week of 2-5: Day 1: **PP Justifying the State** Introduction, The Social Contract;

Day 2: *PP* Utilitarianism, Mill PDF pgs. 1-15

Week of 2-12: Day 1: *PP* The Principle of Fairness, Conclusion; Day 2: *PP* **Who Should Rule?** Introduction, Plato Against Democracy

Week of 2-19: Day 1: Aristotle PDF: Book 2 part V, Book 3 part XI, Book 4 part IX & XI

Day 2: *PP* Rousseau and the General Will

Week of 2-26: Day 1: **Exam 1 over beginning of semester through Aristotle**  
Day 2: *PP* Representative Democracy

Week of 3-4: Day 1: Jason Brennan Epistocracy PDF

Day 2: *EACD* Joseph Chan, Confucius PDF – Read 2.19 Only.

Week of 3-11: Day 1: *EACD* Tongdong Bai; Day 2: *EACD* Philip Pettit

Week of 3-18: **SPRING BREAK**

**The Place of Liberty & The Distribution of Property: Weeks 9-15**

Week of 3-25: Day 1: Caroline West PDF; Day 2: *PP* Mill on Liberty, Justifying the Liberty Principle

Week of 4-1: Day 1: **Cesar Chavez Day – No Class**; Day 2: *PP* Problems with Liberalism, Conclusion

Week of 4-8: Day 1: **Exam 2 over Rousseau through week 10**; Day 2: *PP* **The Distribution of Property** The Problem of Distributive Justice, *PP* Property and Markets

Week of 4-15: Day 1: *PP* Rawls' Theory of Justice, *PP* Rawls and His Critics, Conclusion; Day 2: Susan Mollar Okin PDF

Week of 4-22: Day 1: Marx PDF; Day 2: Martha Nussbaum PDF

Week of 4-29: Day 1: Robert Paxton PDF – Fascism; Day 2: Karen Warren PDF – Feminist Environmental Philosophy

Week of 5-6: Day 1: Charles Mills PDF; Day 2: Buchanan PDF

**Exam 3 over weeks 11-Semester's End: Monday, May 13 at 300PM in our normal classroom.**