

PL/PO 2003B POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

The American University of Paris



Monument à la République, Place de la République, 75003/75010/75011 Paris

Term	Spring 2021	Credits	4
Schedule	Tuesday 12h10-13h30 & Friday 16h55-18h15	Room number	C-102
Instructor	Assistant Professor Julian Culp	Email	jculp@aup.edu
Office hours	Tuesday & Friday 15h15-16h00	Office number	G-L19

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 or actor 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, Habermas 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.

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

SCHEDULE

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

Week 1 Introduction or What is Political Philosophy?

Jan 19 General Introduction

Reading (in class): John Rawls, “The Four Roles of Political Philosophy.” In ibid. *Justice as Fairness – A Restatement*. Cambridge/MA: Harvard UP, 1-5.

Jan 22 Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory

Required reading: Sen, Amartya. 2006. “What Do We Want From a Theory of Justice?” *Journal of Philosophy* 103 (5), 215-238.

Week 2 Utilitarianism

Jan 26 Classical Utilitarianism

Required reading: Mill, John Stuart. 1871. “What is Utilitarianism?” In ibid. *Utilitarianism*. Ch. 2.

Jan 29 Contemporary Utilitarianism

Required reading: Singer, Peter. 1972. “Famine, Affluence, and Morality.” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1 (3), 229-43.

Week 3 Liberalism

Feb 2 Classical Liberalism

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

Feb 5 Contemporary Liberalism

Required reading: Rawls, John. 1971. *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge/MA: Harvard UP. (excerpts)

*****1st Short Essay is due.*****

Week 4 Critical Race Theory

February 8th – 10th, Mini break 1, (no classes)

Feb 12 The Racial Contract

Required reading: Mills, Charles. 1997. *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Ch. 1.

Week 5 Marxism & Socialism

Feb 16: Marx and Engels

Required reading: Marx, Karl and Engels, Friedrich. 1848. *The Communist Manifesto*, esp. 14-21.

Feb 19: Analytical Marxism

Required readings: Cohen, G.A. 1999. “Socialism and Equality of Opportunity.” (excerpts)

Week 6 Libertarianism

Feb 23 Nozick's Libertarianism

Required reading: Nozick, Robert. 1974. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. New York: Basic Books, ch. 7.

*****2nd Short Essay is due.*****

February 24th – 28th, Mini break 2, (no classes)

Week 7 Communitarianism

Mar 2 Does Liberalism Undermine Community?

Required reading: Sandel, Michael. 1984. "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self." *Political Theory*, 12 (1), 81-96.

Mar 5 Social Freedom

Required reading: Honneth, Axel. 2017. *The Idea of Socialism*. Cambridge: Polity, ch. 1.

Week 8 Feminism

Mar 9 Classical Feminism

Required reading: Wollstonecraft, Mary. 1794. *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. (excerpts)

Mar 12 Contemporary Feminism

Required reading: Okin, Susan Moller. 1987. *Justice, Sex, and the Family*. Ch. 5. New York: Basic Books.

Week 9 Democratic and Discourse Theory

Mar 16 Who Decides Who Gets What?

Required reading: Young, Iris Marion. 1990. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. ch. 1.

Mar 19 Democracy and the Rule of Law

Required reading: Habermas, Jürgen. 1996. "On the Internal Relation between the Rule of Law and Democracy." In: ibid. *The Inclusion of the Other*. Cambridge/MA: MIT Press.

Week 10 Multiculturalism

Mar 23 The Politics of Recognition

Required reading: Taylor, Charles. 1994. "The Politics of Recognition." In Gutmann, Amy (ed.). *Multiculturalism*. Princeton: Princeton UP.

Mar 26 Recognition or Re-Distribution?

Required reading: Fraser, Nandy. 1997. *Justice Interruptus. Critical Reflections on the Post-Socialist Condition*. London: Routledge. (excerpts)

Week 11 Guest Lecture & Midterm Exam

Mar 30 Historical Justice

Optional: Recap of course contents during class time.

Guest Lecture 17h00: Alasia Nuti (York University): Emancipation from the Unjust Past

April 2

*****Midterm-exam in class.*****

Week 12 The Capabilities Approach

April 5 & 6 Easter Monday & Faculty retreat (no classes)

Apr 9 The Capabilities Approach

Required readings: Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: OUP, ch. 1. OR

Nussbaum, Martha. 2011. *Creating Capabilities*. Cambridge/MA: Harvard University Press, chs. 2 and 3.

Week 13 Postcolonialism

Apr 13 Orientalism

Required reading: Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. London: Routledge (excerpts).

Apr 16 Postcolonialism in Development Theory

Required reading: Escobar, Arturo. 2012. *Encountering Development*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, ch. 2.

Week 14 Comparative Political Theory

Apr 20 Why Comparative Political Theory?

Required readings: Dallmayr, Fred. 2004. Beyond Monologue: For a Comparative Political Theory. *Perspectives on Politics* 2 (2), 249-257. AND

March, Andrew. 2009. What Is Comparative Political Theory? *Review of Politics* 71, 531-65.

Apr 23 Latin American Political Theory

Required reading: von Vacano, Diego A. 2012. *The Color of Citizenship: Race, Modernity and Latin American/Hispanic Political Thought*. New York: Oxford University Press, ch. 2.

Week 15

Apr 27 TBD (e.g., more Latin American Political Theory or mini-workshop on term papers)

April 29 – May 2, Reading days (May 1st, holiday)

May 11, 18h30, Final Exam Session: Student Presentations

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

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 on Teams.

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.

REQUIRED AND FURTHER READINGS

All *required readings* will be made available on BLACKBOARD. For the *required readings* assigned to each session, please consult the *schedule* below. *Further readings* are provided on BLACKBOARD.

In case you are interested in studying a topic in further depth, please feel free to contact the professor for information, or contact the AUP Library: <http://library.aup.edu/index.html> – email: library@aup.edu.

A fine online resource for philosophy is *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <https://plato.stanford.edu>.

A useful introductory textbook to political philosophy is Will Kymlicka. 2001. *Contemporary Political Philosophy*. 2001. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd edn. ISBN: 9780198782742.

A useful anthology – that is, collection of key primary texts – is Rosen, Michael and Jonathan Wolff (eds.). 1999. *Political Thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4th edn. ISBN: 9780192892782.

REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Relative weight for overall grade
Participation	10%
2 Short Essays	30%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Term Paper	30%
Final Presentation	5%

It is the students' responsibility to meet the administrative and academic requirements of this course. Make sure that you familiarize yourself with these requirements and that you plan your time and work reasonably. Also, ensure that you submit all assignments on time. Late submissions may be penalized. Remember that the readings and assignments are meant as springboards for your own independent – and hopefully rewarding – exploration of the topic.

Participation

Students are expected to come to every class meeting on time and be prepared to participate actively. The *student's 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.

Your participation grade will be assigned based on your *participation in class throughout the semester*. Your class participation throughout the semester will be assessed based on the following rubric (adapted from Bean, John and Peterson, Dean. 1998. "Grading classroom participation." In: *New Directions for Teaching and Learning* 74, 33-40). Absences or tardiness will also result in a lower class participation grade. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you might be marked absent. Punctuality is essential for undisrupted and efficient coursework.

A	A student will receive an A if he/she: comes to class prepared; contributes readily to the conversation but doesn't dominate it; makes thoughtful contributions that advance the conversation; and shows interest in and respect for others' contributions and views.
B	A student will receive a B if he/she: comes to class prepared; makes thoughtful comments when called upon; contributes occasionally without prompting; and shows interest in and respect for others' contributions and views. This grade may also be appropriate for an active participant whose contributions are less developed or cogent than those of students who deserve an A .
C	A student will receive a C if he/she: comes to class prepared and listens attentively, but does not voluntarily contribute to discussions and gives only minimal answers when called upon. A student will also receive a C if he/she participates in discussion, but in a problematic way. Such students may talk too much, make rambling or tangential contributions, continually interrupt with digressive questions, bluff their way when unprepared, or otherwise dominate discussions, not acknowledging cues of annoyance from instructors or other students.
D or F	A student will receive a D or F if they often seem on the margins of the class and may have a negative effect on the participation of others. Such students often don't participate because they haven't come to class prepared. Students receiving an F may be actually disruptive, radiating negative energy via hostile or bored body language, or be overtly rude.

You will be expected to write two short essays to set questions that concern the readings. You will find these set questions on BLACKBOARD. These short essays will guide your reading, foster your understanding and assessment of the texts, and prepare you for classroom discussions.

The short essays should be about *1000 words*. They should be submitted via BLACKBOARD as *Word* document (.doc or .docx) or *PDF* file by *23h59* (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.dox(x). More information will be provided along the semester.

Your short essays 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.

Late critical replies may 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 may receive 92.00/A-/3.7. If you submit the same critical reply 50 hours late, you may 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.

Mid-Term Exam

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.

Term Paper

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 that you either develop yourself or pick 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 23h59 on the day on which it is due.

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.

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.

Late term papers may 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 may 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.

Term Paper Presentation

Students will present their term paper during the final exam period. This will give you the opportunity to present 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.

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

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at *all* scheduled classes and will be taken every class. In case of absence, you should contact the instructor to explain the situation. You may miss up to 3 sessions without excuse – though each of these three unexcused absences will lower your participation grade. More than 3 unexcused absences will be reported to the *Student Development Team* and might result in a failing participation grade (0.00 score points). In the case of more than 7 absences, whether excused or unexcused, you might also be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade for the

entire course. Absences may only be considered excused if they are officially excused, e.g. because 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.

Covid-19 temporary amendments

Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Students located in different time zones that do not participate at the Tuesday sessions online, are encouraged to submit questions of understanding and discussion questions before the online class via email to jculp@aup.edu, should watch the recorded online class session, and **must submit, no later than 24 hours after the online class, written responses to a list of questions concerning the introductory lecture, the reading and the broader topic of the session.** This list of questions will be posted before class time on the Announcements Page on Blackboard. The recordings of the Tuesday class sessions will be available via the chat of our team on Teams.

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*. 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 Charlotte Vernier via cvernier@aup.edu. There is a lot that can be done to help you!