

PHIL 307 Social and Political Philosophy
Instructor: Thomas Nail

PHIL 307
Social & Political Philosophy
MTWH – 9:00 –9:50, 204 CHA

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Course Objective: This course will survey several major theories of justice, natural law, natural rights, social contract, and economics through the history of philosophy. We will follow the chronological development of these theories through a variety of significant social and political theorists in the history of philosophy beginning with theories of Justice and Politics in Ancient Greece, then to the Social Contract and Natural Rights theories in England and France, and finally to the Political Economic theory of Karl Marx.

Requirements:

1. Participation and Peer Review – Classroom and Forum (20%). You are expected to both contribute to class discussions and will be periodically required to visit the course forum on Blackboard and post several thoughtful comments over the course of the term. These posts will be the subject of class activities and discussion. You will also conduct one take home peer review assignment of another student's paper.

2. Short Argumentative Essays with extended annotated bibliographies (30% – 15% each). You will write two short argumentative essays (4-5 pages) with accompanying annotated bibliographies mapping out programs of further research. These essays themselves need only engage with our primary readings but you are expected to go to the library and research additional secondary readings. These essays will be due (both hardcopy and electronically) and I will give you written feedback on each a couple weeks later. We will then set up a meeting time to discuss revising one of these essays and expanding it into a longer final research essay due at the end of the term.

3. Final Research Essay (50%).

You will write a final research essay of 6-7 pages or longer. This is expected to be a revision of, and improvement upon, on of your short argumentative essay from earlier in the term. This essay should engage with the assigned primary literature and some relevant secondary literature that I can help you locate.

Reading Schedule: *(we will read selections only from each of the following texts)*

Week one

September 25 – Introduction

September 26 – Plato, *Crito*

September 27 – Plato, *Republic*: Book 1 (3-15)

September 28 – Plato, *Republic*: Book 1 (16-34)

Week two

October 2 – Plato, *Republic*: Book 2 (35-48)

October 3 – Plato, *Republic*: Book 2 (49-61)

October 4 – Aristotle, *Nich. Eth.*, I.1-4, 13, X.8-9

October 5 – Aristotle, *Nich Ethics* (Discussion TBA)

Week three

- October 9 – Aristotle, *Politics*: I. 1-10
- October 10 – Aristotle, *Politics*: II. 1-5 III.1-2, 4-5
- October 11 – Aristotle, *Politics*: VII.1-3, 13-15, VIII.1-2
- October 12 – Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Week four

- October 16 – (essay one due) Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- October 17 – Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- October 18 – Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- October 19 – Hobbes, *Leviathan*

Week five

- October 23 – Pateman, “Hobbes, Patriarchy and Conjugal Right”
- October 24 – Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
- October 25 - Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
- October 26 - Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*

Week six

- November 30 – Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*
- November 31 – Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (essay two due)
- November 1 - Clark, “Women and John Locke; Or Who Owns the Apples in the Garden of Eden”
- November 2 – Rousseau, *Second Discourse*

Week seven

- November 6 - Rousseau, *Second Discourse*
- November 7 – Rousseau, *The Social Contract*
- November 8 - Rousseau, *The Social Contract*
- November 9 - Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

Week eight

- November 13 – Michel Serres, *The Natural Contract* (chap.2)
- November 14 - J.S Mill, *On Liberty*
- November 15 - J.S Mill, *On Liberty*
- November 16 – J.S Mill, *On Liberty*

Week nine

- November 20 – Marx, *1844 Manuscripts*
- November 21 – Marx, *1844 Manuscripts*
- November 22 – Marx, *1844 Manuscripts*
- November 23 - NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week ten

- November 27 – Marx, *Communist Manifesto*
- November 28 – Marx, *Communist Manifesto*
- November 29 – Emma Goldman, “The Traffic in Women” and Simone de Beauvoir, “The Point of view of Historical Materialism” (short selection)
- November 30 - (Review)
- Final Exam - December 4-8 (Third final essay due)