

SYLLABUS

---

There are two overarching questions in political and social philosophy. First, what (if anything) gives a governing body political authority or legitimacy? In other words, what makes it morally permissible for a governing body to make laws demanding that citizens behave a certain way and to use threats of fines, jail, even death to ensure that they obey these laws? Second, how should basic goods (and duties) be distributed among the members of a political society? To answer these questions, we will consider some basic texts in modern and contemporary political theory.

**Instructor:**

*Lecturer*

Christopher A. Vogel

OMA 303 Building

email: cvogel@kutztown.edu

OFFICE HOURS | Mondays & Wednesdays 1–2PM & by appt.

**Textbook:**

Simmons, J.A. (2008). *Political Philosophy*. OUP. (PP)

Various articles posted online on D2L (<https://desire2learn.kutztown.edu>)

**Assessment:**

Each student's success in learning the material for this course will be evaluated based on their performance on two(2) exams, a writing assignment, and in-class pop quizzes:

Assignment	Due Date	Weight
Mid-Term Exam	Oct. 19th	25% of grade
Writing Assignment	Nov. 21st	35% of grade
Final Exam	Dec. 12th	30% of grade
Quizzes	Various	10% of grade

Quizzes will be administered during any class session in which a student uses an electronic device, as indicated below (see: '*In-Class Participation*'). Quizzes can only be made up if the student has a university-approved reason for missing class (see: '*Missed Classes*').

*Grading and Evaluation*

Assignments will be graded on a ten (10) point scale, with grades assigned as follows:

Fail: <2; 'D': 2-3.99; 'C': 4-5.99; 'B': 6-7.99; 'A': 8-10

with a third of each grade range devoted to +/- grading (e.g. 'B-': 6-6.66). In order to pass the course, each student must complete all assignments.

*Late Assignments*

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the *Course Schedule*. Late assignments will NOT be accepted. A student's late assignment will only be accepted if the student demonstrates that the circumstances that caused the assignment to be late were both unexpected and unduly burdensome, which will be determined by the course instructor.

## Course Conduct:

### *Academic Honesty*

Each student is responsible for their own work. While students are encouraged to discuss course material both inside and outside class, each assignment/exam should be the product of the student's own thinking. Any apparent improper use of the intellectual work of others will be submitted to the Student Honor Council. Students are encouraged to review the university's Code of Academic Integrity (<http://app.kutztown.edu/policyregister/policy.aspx?policy=ACA-027>), as the policies stipulated in that code will be exceptionlessly adhered to during this course.

### *In-Class Participation*

Students are expected to read the course material prior to coming to each class session, and are also expected to contribute to discussion during lectures. This participation should be conducted with civility and respect for course instructors and fellow students. In this vein, any in-class use of wireless-network-enabled electronic devices is prohibited during this course. These devices invariably lead to distracting and disrespectful behavior during class sessions, even for students not tempted by the allure of these devices. **Thus, any use of laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones, mobile phones, two-way messaging devices, pagers, or any other electronic communication device during class sessions is prohibited. Violation of this prohibition will be immediately followed by a Quiz administered to the class.**

Participation in class discussion is expected, though not explicitly evaluated. However, the degree and quality of a student's participation in class discussion can bear positively on a student's final course grade.

### *Missed Classes*

#### -Due to Illness

Regular attendance and participation in this class is the best way to grasp the course material. However, in the event that a class must be missed due to an illness, the policy in this class, in conformity with the University's Attendance Policy (<http://app.kutztown.edu/policyregister/policy.aspx?policy=ACA-016>) is as follows:

For every medically necessary absence from class, a reasonable effort should be made by the student to notify the instructor prior to class. When returning to class, students should bring a note identifying the reason for the absence in order to inform their instructor that the absence was due to illness (as opposed to, say, laziness).

For this course, if a student is absent for any 'Grading Event' (i.e., any class day with an exam, quiz, or in which an assignment is due) they are required to notify the instructor of their absence as soon as possible (preferably in advance of their absence), and upon returning to class, the student must bring *documentation* of the absence. Failure to do so will result in a considerably lower grade on the relevant exam or assignment.

#### -Due to Religious Observance

Students will not be penalized for missing class sessions due to religious observances. The *Course Schedule* is designed to minimize possible conflicts between students' academic and religious commitments. However, all students should review the *Course Schedule* within the first two(2) weeks of the term and determine any potential conflicts between their religious commitments and their responsibilities for this course. They should then inform their instructors of any such conflicts. Arrangements should be made between the student and their instructor to enable the student to satisfy their course responsibilities without undermining their religious commitments.

### *Correspondence with Instructors*

Electronic mail has become the chief medium for out-of-class communication between university instructors and students. Because of the impersonal nature of this medium, email correspondence between students and instructors should be clear and respectful. A respectful email includes a salutation, the full name of the correspondent, and abides by English grammar rules. Correspondence that is not respectful, in this sense, will likely be ignored by instructors.

### *Accommodating Students with Disabilities*

The University is committed to the accessibility of higher education. In light of this commitment, any student with a disability should contact the course instructor so that any needed accommodations can be made to establish an equitable learning environment. Also, any student with a disability is encouraged to contact Disability Support Office to learn about the resources available to them.

([https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administrative-offices/disability-services-\(dso\).htm](https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administrative-offices/disability-services-(dso).htm))

COURSE SCHEDULE

---

The following indicates the timeline for reading both the textbook (*PP*) and the articles found on D2L (<https://desire2learn.kutztown.edu>). Each student is expected to have read the relevant article by the dates indicated below.

INTRODUCTION: BASIC QUESTIONS

Week I: 8/29 & 8/31.....AUTHORITY & OBLIGATION  
*PP*, §§1.1–1.3  
*PP*, §§3.1–3.2  
Plato. “Crito”

PART ONE: AUTHORITY & JUSTICE

Week II: 9/5 & 9/7..... ASSOCIATION  
*PP*, §3.3, pp. 49–53  
Aristotle. *Politics*: Book I, §§1–8; Book III §6  
*Nichomachean Ethics*, Book I, Ch. 2, §§4–7, 13

Week III: 9/12 & 9/14..... RECIPROCATION  
Smith, M.B.E. (1973). “Is There a *prime face* Obligation to Obey the Law?”  
Hobbes, T. (1651). *Leviathon* Introduction, Ch. 13, 17

Week IV: 9/19 & 9/21..... CONSENT & STATE OF NATURE  
Hobbes, T. (1651). *Leviathon*. Ch. 14–21, 31 & 43

Week V: 9/26 & 9/28..... CONSENT & PROPERTY  
Locke, J. (1689). *Second Treatise*. Ch. 1–4, 6

Week VI: 10/3 & 10/5..... CONSENT & DEMOCRACY  
Locke, J. (1689). *Second Treatise*. Ch. 5, 7–12, 15  
*PP*, §5.2

Week VII: 10/10 & 10/12..... DEMOCRACY & ANARCHY  
Hampton, J. (1993). “The Moral Commitments of Liberalism”  
Wolff, R.P. (1970) “In Defense of Anarchy”

Week VIII: 10/17 & 10/19..... REVIEW  
Review Day  
Mid-term Exam

PART TWO: DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

Week IX: 10/24 & 10/26..... UTILITY  
*PP*, §§4.1–4.2  
Mill. J.S. (1859). *On Liberty*, Ch. 1

Week X: 10/31 & 11/2 .....	JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS PP, §4.3 Rawls, J. (1971). <i>A Theory of Justice</i> , pp. 3–19, 52–6, 102–9, 118–23, 153–60, 221–7.
Week XI: 11/7 & 11/9 .....	LIBERTARIANISM PP, §4.4 Nozick, R. (1974) <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i> . pp. 3–17, 26–35, 54–63, 78–84, 88–90, 108–19, 149–64, 174–82.
Week XII: 11/14 & 11/16 .....	UTILITARIANISM Bentham, J (1789). <i>Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> : Ch. 1–3, 7 Williams, B. (1973). “Utilitarianism and Integrity” pp. 77–82, 93–100.
Week XIII: 11/21 & 11/23 .....	CRITICAL THEORY: COMMUNITARIANISM PP, §4.5, pp. 97–101 Sandel, M. (2003). “Liberalism and the Limits of Justice” No Class 11/23   Thanksgiving
Week XIV: 11/28 & 11/30 .....	FEMINISM & MARXISM PP, §4.5, pp. 94–97, 101–104 Okin, S. (1991). <i>Justice, Gender and the Family</i> : Ch. 5 Marx, K. (1975). “Critique of the Gotha Programme”
Week XV: 12/5 & 12/7 .....	INTERNATIONAL ISSUES PP, §6.1–6.4
FINAL EXAM: 12/12 .....	8:00–10:00AM NO CLASS!