Phil 6 – Introduction to Political Philosophy  
Summer Session A 2020

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Course description

One of the central aims of political philosophy is to investigate the relationship between the individual (or the personal or private) and the state. In this course, we will consider some of the fundamental questions about this relationship. What is the role of the state? Does it have a significant role to play in the life of the individual? If so, why is that and what is the nature of this role? How does the state help or hinder the individual’s pursuit of a good life? What form should the state take? To what degree is this form constrained by the interests or well-being of individuals under the rule of the state? Is it possible to have a stateless society?

Course objectives

1. To introduce some historical and contemporary figures in Western political philosophy and consider how their contributions have influenced our thinking about politics.  
2. To learn how to carefully engage philosophical texts and develop and defend your own ideas in response to these texts.

Course requirements

10% – Participation  
15% – In-class exercises  
30% – Paper 1 (4-5 pages) (Tentative due date: July 10th)  
45% – Paper 2 (4-6 pages) (Tentative due date: July 31st).  

The participation score will be based on your participation in class and in office hours.  

There will be 5 short exercises (each worth 3%) that will be distributed at random in class. These exercises will also be collected in class and checked for completion. If you have a documented excuse for missing an exercise, you will be allowed to complete a make-up exercise.  

Papers should be submitted to Turnitin via CCLE. Unless an extension is granted, the penalty for late assignments is a deduction of 1/3 of a whole letter grade for every day late. This means that a B+ paper that is a day late is penalized to a B.
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE, previously known as the Office for Students with Disabilities) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at A255 Murphy Hall. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

Academic integrity

- Plagiarism is a serious offense, but it is not the only form of academic misconduct. The University understands academic dishonesty to include (but not be limited to) “cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions or facilitating academic misconduct.” If you’re not sure about what constitutes plagiarism, the library has a helpful guide: (http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/plagiarism/avoid).

- Any work suspected to be the product of academic dishonesty will be turned over to The Office of the Dean of Students for investigation. There are no exceptions.

Course texts

Readings will be posted on the course website, unless otherwise noted

Republic – Plato
Leviathan – Thomas Hobbes
Two Treatises of Government – John Locke
On Liberty – John Stuart Mill
“Anarchy: What It Really Stands For” – Emma Goldman
“The Problem with Work” – Kathi Weeks
“Trying Out One’s New Sword” – Mary Midgely

Tentative Schedule

Week 1
Introduction and Plato – Republic Bk I

Week 2
Plato – Republic Bks II & III (selections)

Week 3
Plato – Republic Bks IV, V, & VI (selections)

Week 4
Hobbes – Leviathan (selections)
Locke – Second Treatise of Government (selections)
Mill – *On Liberty* (selections)

Week 5
Emma Goldman – “Anarchy: What It Really Stands For”
Kathi Weeks – “The Problem with Work”

Week 6
Kathi Weeks – “The Problem with Work”
Mary Midgely – “Trying Out One’s New Sword”