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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

20% – Participation  
30% – Weekly writing exercises  
20% – Paper 1 (3-5 pages) (Tentative due date: July 10th)  
30% – Paper 2 (4-6 pages) (Tentative due date: July 31st).

- **Participation**: The participation score will be based on your participation in class (lectures, sections), office hours and even via email or discussion board posts.
• **Exercises**: There will be 6 very short writing exercises (each worth 5%) that will be posted every week on CCLE (submit to Turnitin via CCLE under ‘Weekly writing exercises’). The due date each week will be: **Friday by 5pm.** Again, these are meant to be painless and will only be checked for completion, not necessarily accuracy, and will be graded on a ‘check/check-minus/no-check’ scale. So, if you make a good faith attempt at answering the questions, you will receive full marks (‘check’). If you do not make a good faith attempt (if your response seems rushed or does not really address the question etc.) you will receive a 2.5/5 (‘check-minus’), and if you do not submit an exercise and you don’t have an excuse or extension you will receive 0/5 (‘no-check’) for that exercise.

• **Papers**: 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](http://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](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**

All readings will be posted on the course website as pdfs.

*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
Projected 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” (selections)

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