

THIS IS THE SYLLABUS AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2018!

**Philosophy 99
Political and Social Thought
Fall 2018
TTh 9:30-10:45 Reiss 112**

Instructor

Judith Lichtenberg
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Office hours: T 11-12:30 and by appointment

Teaching assistants

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Discussion sections

7. W 3:30-4:45, ICC 210B (SK)
 8. Th 5-6:15, ICC 221B (OT)
 10. W 5-6:15, ICC 221B (SK)
 11. T 5-6:15, Maguire 104 (OT)
 12. F 12:30-1:45, ICC 206A (OT)
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About the course

The course has several goals:

- to introduce you to the writings and ideas of some of the most important political thinkers in the western tradition.
- to cultivate your own thinking about central problems in moral and political philosophy, especially as they bear on contemporary issues facing our society and our world.
- to improve your analytical reading and writing skills.

Almost all the works we will be reading are dense and difficult, even when (like Plato) they may seem easy. You should expect to read these works slowly, carefully, and more than once—and still to be in the dark some of the time! You will engage with the material by writing about it, but you will also need to be an active participant in discussion sections. And the “lecture” component of the course will not be a monologue either. Learning is a dialectic process, as Socrates teaches us. Come prepared: do the reading before class (and then again, in many cases, after class).

Course requirements, policies, and expectations

- **Two papers during the semester, each about 1500 words** (details to follow). Papers will be submitted on Canvas. Paper assignments will generally be posted about two weeks before the due date.
- **A take-home final exam, due during the exam period.** The exam will probably consist of two or three essays.

- **Quizzes, unannounced, approximately weekly, given at the beginning of class.** These should be easy to do well on if you've done the reading beforehand and come to class.

There are only three possible quiz grades: 4, 3, and 0. 4 = A; 3 = B; 0 = F. "4" means you've done the reading and have a good grasp of the material. "3" means you've done the reading but your grasp is less than adequate. You get a 0 if you don't show you've done the reading or if you miss the quiz.

There are no make-up quizzes (it would be unwieldy and unfair to try to administer them), but the two lowest grades on the quizzes will be dropped. You will need a laptop or other electronic device to take the quiz, but I will ask you to put it away afterwards.

It's possible I may give you some other brief in-class writing assignments (done on Canvas) that might happen anytime during the class. These will be counted approximately as the quizzes are, insofar as that's possible given the topic or question.

- **Regular attendance and participation.** Attendance and participation in discussion sections is important for the quality of the class.
- **Approximate grade value of assignments:** quizzes 15%; first paper 20%; second paper 25%; final exam 30%; attendance and participation 10%.
- You'll notice that reading assignments are not generally overly long. But most of the texts must be read slowly and carefully. It will often be important to read them more than once.
- **Use of laptops, phones, and electronic devices is not permitted in class except to take quizzes or do other online assignments. Otherwise they should be put away.**
- **Extensions and late papers:** if you need an extension on an assignment please request it *from your TA* at least 24 hours in advance of the due date. Assignments turned in late without permission will be penalized. Back up your work frequently.
- Please arrive in class on time and stay till the end; observe common courtesies, such as not chatting in class. Please don't go out and come in during class if you can help it.
- Please come to office hours or make an appointment to talk with me or your TA; we welcome the opportunity to get to know you better outside of class. If you're having problems that interfere with your performance in the course or are otherwise making your life difficult, please let your TA or me know. We will do all we can to help.
- **Check Canvas and your email regularly** for announcements and updated assignments. Make sure the email address we have (and Canvas has) for you is working. You will get regular messages from me, which will include changes and updates to the syllabus!!

Plagiarism and academic integrity

Cheating is wrong and will not be tolerated. The rise of the Internet as a research tool has engendered some confusion about what constitutes plagiarism and the legitimate uses of other people's

work. We will discuss these matters with you further before assignments are due. Please read about Georgetown's [honor system](#) and in particular "[What Is Plagiarism?](#)"

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities should inform me at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Texts

Please buy the editions marked with an asterisk (*) in front of them. I also suggest buying hard copies of the Locke and Hobbes—in particular the Hackett editions, which I've ordered as "recommended"—but it's not essential if you prefer to use online editions.

- *Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (3d ed.), Hackett 2000
- *Plato, *The Republic* (Grube, ed.), Hackett 1992
- *Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Wootton, ed.), Hackett 1995
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (available online at <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/h/hobbes/thomas/h68l/index.html> and elsewhere)
- John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (available online at <http://libertyonline.hypermall.com/Locke/second/second-frame.html> and elsewhere)
- *John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Philp and Rosen, eds.), Oxford 2015
- *Karl Marx, *Selected Writings* (Simon, ed.), Hackett 1994
- *Tommie Shelby, *Dark Ghettos: Injustice, Dissent, and Reform*, Belknap/Harvard 2016

Other readings will be posted on Canvas (they are marked with C).

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Some changes in the readings or schedule, including additional readings, are likely, depending on the interests of students and teachers as well as novel questions that may arise in the course of the class. We may speed up (slightly) or fall behind (slightly). *Please pay close attention.* I will regularly post announcements on Canvas and send email messages, so make sure you check Canvas and your email account affiliated with Canvas.

Readings followed by a (C) are posted on Canvas>Files>Course Readings.

Class 1. 8.30.

Introduction.

Morality and Politics

Class 2. 9.4.

Plato, *Republic*, Book I-II, pp. 1-43 (368d)

Class 3. 9.6.

Republic, Book II, pp. 43-59; Book III, IV, V pp. 88-146 (412b-471b); Book VII, pp. 186-92 (514a -520d)

Class 4. 9.11.

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedication to Lorenzo de' Medici (pp. 5-6), chapter 8 (pp. 27-31), chapters 15-25 (pp. 47-77)

Class 5. 9.13.
Michael Walzer, “The Problem of Dirty Hands” (C)

Class 6. 9.18.
Hannah Arendt, “Personal Responsibility Under Dictatorship” (C)
“Legislating the Holocaust: The Bernhard Loesener Memoirs and Supporting Documents” (C)

Legitimacy and the duty (?) to obey the law

Class 7. 9.20.
Plato, *Apology*.

Class 8. 9.25.
Plato, *Crito*.

Class 9. 9.27.
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Dedication, Introduction (pp. 1-5); chapters 6 (pp. 27-35), 10-11 (pp. 50-63), 13-14 (pp. 74-88).

Class 10. 10.2.
Leviathan, chapters 15 (pp. 89-100), 17-20 (pp. 106-35).
The Prisoner’s Dilemma (C)

Class 11. 10.4.
Leviathan, chapters 21 (pp. 136-45), 29 (pp. 210-19).
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters 1-4.

10.5. FIRST PAPER DUE.

Class 12. 10.9.
Second Treatise, ch. 5; ch. 6, ¶¶ 52-63; ch. 7; ch. 8, ¶¶ 95-99, 119-22; ch. 9; chs.14-15.

Class 13. 10.11.
Second Treatise, chs. 18-19
David Hume, “Of the Original Contract” (C)

Class 14. 10.16.
Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (C)
Samantha Love, [“I just don’t, it’s illegal”: Is There a Moral Obligation to Obey the Law?”](#)
Walker v. City of Birmingham, 388 U.S. 207 (1967) (C)

Class 15. 10.18.
Tommie Shelby, *Dark Ghettos*, chapter 7: “Crime”

Liberty and equality

Class 16. 10.23.
Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 1: 12 “The object of this Essay”) -17; chapter 2 (abridged, on Canvas).
(Read all of chapter 1 if you have time.)

Class 17. 10.25.

Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*, chapters 1-4 (C)
Mill, *Utilitarianism*, 120 (“The creed which accepts...”)–130 (“...the collective interests of mankind”)

Class 18. 10.30.

On Liberty, chapter 3 (entire), 4 (73-82)

Class 19. 11.1.

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One’s Own* (C)

Class 20. 11.6

Marx, *The German Ideology*, 107-112 (“...only as *their* consciousness); “Alienated Labor,” 58-68

Class 21. 11.8

Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, 157-86; *Theses on Feuerbach*, 99-10

Justice today, domestic and international

Class 22. 11.13.

John Rawls, from *A Theory of Justice* (C)

Class 23. 11.15.

Iris Marion Young, “Five Faces of Oppression” (C)
Shelby, *Dark Ghettos*, chapter 1, “Injustice”

11.18. Second paper due.

Class 24. 11.20.

Robert Nozick, from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (C)

11.22: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING

Class 25. 11.27.

Tommie Shelby, *Dark Ghettos*, chapter 8, “Punishment”
Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations” (C)

Class 26. 11.29.

Thomas Pogge, “World Poverty and Human Rights”; Mathias Risse, “Do We Owe the Poor Assistance or Rectification?: A Reply to Pogge”; Pogge, reply to Risse (altogether on C)

Class 27. 12.4.

Peter Singer, from *The Life You Can Save* (C)

Class 28. 12.6.

Catch up and catch breath.