

Course Title	Introduction to Political and Social Philosophy	Instructor(s)	Thomas J. Spiegel
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Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	tba
Track	International Liberal Arts	Mode of Instruction	Team-teaching
Credits	2	Allocated Year	1
Active Learning	Category 1 (3) Category 4 (1,3, 9, 10)	Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	Political and Social Philosophy is a branch of philosophy that studies how societies should be organized and how people should live together. It examines questions about power, justice, rights, authority, equality, freedom, and social institutions.		
Course Objectives	<p>Political and Social Philosophy is a branch of philosophy that studies how societies should be organized and how people should live together. It examines questions about power, justice, rights, authority, equality, freedom, and social institutions. Political philosophy focuses on the state, government, laws, and political power. Social philosophy focuses on social relationships, institutions, norms, and structures (like family, culture, class, race, gender).</p> <p>We are going to discuss questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is justice? - What is freedom? - Why should people obey other people? - What is equality? - What are rights? - What is power? <p>Another objective of the course is development of English language proficiency. In the course, students will use a great deal of English and occasionally be asked to study relevant features of the language. In these ways, the course will promote English acquisition.</p> <p>In successfully completing the course, the students will have acquired a strong grasp of the main fields and problems in political and social philosophy. The students will thereby improve their capacity for critical thought that can be applied and transferred to virtually any other scientific discipline.</p>		
Prerequisite	No prior knowledge required, just willingness to do the assigned work, actively participate and sometimes engage in group work. Class attendance and active participation is mandatory to pass this class.		
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	What is Social and Political Philosophy?	Determined at the end of class
	2	Justice I Virtue-based theories of justice	Determined at the end of class
	3	Justice II Social Contract Theories of Justice	Determined at the end of class
	4	Justice III Justice as fairness	Determined at the end of class
	5	Freedom I What does it mean to be free? Negative accounts of freedom	Determined at the end of class
	6	Freedom II The previous session is contrasted with positive accounts of	Determined at the end of class

		freedom	
	7	Equality We contrast different notions of equality, from simple to complex	Determined at the end of class
	8	Midterms	
	9	Power What is power? We find answers in Weber and Foucault.	Determined at the end of class
	10	Rights Where do rights come from? Why do we have rights? This session focusses on Libertarianism	Determined at the end of class
	11	Forms of Government What is a government? Which different forms are there?	Determined at the end of class
	12	Capitalism I Virtually all countries nowadays are capitalist. Capitalism determines all aspects of our lives. But what is capitalism?	Determined at the end of class
	13	Capitalism II Virtually all countries nowadays are capitalist. Capitalism determines all aspects of our lives. But what is capitalism	Determined at the end of class
	14	Applied Topics This session will go into current applied issues of political and social philosophy.	Determined at the end of class
	15	Repetition of what we learned	
Grading	Final Exam: 35% Midterm Exam: 35% Homework: 20% Active Participation: 10%		
NOTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homework will be assigned at the end of class and needs to be turned in 24 hours before the next class. - Depending on the way the term develops, this syllabus may be amended. - Late submissions will generally not be accepted, unless there is a good reason. - Students are expected to be punctual and attend all lessons. Students who are late for class or leave early may be marked as absent. If you have a good reason to leave early or come late (e.g., an accident on the way to class), communicate with me. If you cannot participate in class, for example because you are ill, please submit an official document (e.g., a doctor's note) within 7 days; otherwise you will be marked as absent. Students who are absent for 5 or more lessons cannot pass the course. 		