Course Overview

PHIL3400 - Political Philosophy

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: John Wright
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Email: John.Wright@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tue 3-5

Brief Course Description
The course introduces students to the main ideas and principles of Political Philosophy as they have developed from the seventeenth century up to the present day. The course begins with a study of the development of the fundamental principles of political liberalism as developed by thinkers such as John Locke, and traces the development of political philosophical up to the present day.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Learning Materials/Texts
There is no set text for the course. All relevant materials will be placed on short loans, or on Blackboard.

Course Objectives
(1) Impart to students familiarity with, and knowledge of, the main issues addressed and approaches taken by influential political philosophers.
(2) Impart to students critical skills to deal with these issues in their assessment of their own culture and societal life.
(3) Develop high level written and oral skills in analysing and presenting issues in political philosophy.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2009

CTS Download Date: 13.2.09
Develop a capacity to appreciate the political-philosophical issues involved in how people approach ways of living and their stance to the world around them.

**Course Content**
The course introduces students to the main ideas of political philosophy. It is proposed that the course begins with the classic statements of the philosophical foundations of liberalism. To be included are: John Locke's Second Treatise of Government and J.S. Mill's On Liberty. The course then examines critiques of, and alternatives to, philosophical liberalism. Included in this section are Marxist, conservative and theocratic critiques. The course then moves on to an examination of modern developments in philosophical political thought, including the writings of John Rawls. Criticisms of Rawls from Robert Nozick and others are considered. The course concludes with an examination of some more recent authors, including Amartya Sen and Michael Otsuka.

**Assessment Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 essays, each of 2,000 words, 50% each, the first due around week 9, the second at the end of semester.</td>
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**Assumed Knowledge**
10 units in PHIL courses at 1000 level, or 40 units in any subjects at any level.

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PHIL3400</th>
<th>POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1 – 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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**Plagiarism**
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another's ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University uses an electronic text matching system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may:

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**Written Assessment Items**
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.
Marks and Grades Released During Term

All marks and grades released during the term, are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School on the recommendation of the School Assessment body.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or

2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Please go to the Policy at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html) for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be received no later than ten working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. In the first instance, students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

Changing your Enrolment

If students are enrolled after the census dates listed below they are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2009

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2009

For Trimester 1 courses: 18 February 2009

For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2009

For Trimester 3 courses: 22 September 2009

**Singapore Census Dates**

For Trimester 1 Singapore courses: 27 January 2009

For Trimester 2 Singapore courses: 26 May 2009

For Trimester 3 Singapore courses: 22 September 2009.

**Block Census Dates**

Block 1: 16 January 2009

Block 2: 13 March 2009

Block 3: 15 May 2009
Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online, please refer to myHub - Self Service for Students

https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

Faculty Information

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia.

The four Student Hubs are located at:

Callaghan Campus
• Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building
• Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre

City Precinct
• City Hub and Information Common: Ground Floor, University House

Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)
• Student Hub: Opposite the Main Cafeteria

For Port Macquarie students, contact your program officer or EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au, phone 4921 5000

For Singapore students, your first point of contact is your PSB Program Executive

Faculty websites

Faculty of Business and Law

Faculty of Education and Arts
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/

Faculty of Health
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/health/

Faculty of Science and Information Technology
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/science-it/

Contact details

Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au
Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Postgraduate Academic Awards

Web Address for Rules Governing Professional Doctorate Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

End of CTS Entry
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

**Important Additional Information**

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

- Special Circumstances
- Re-marks & Moderations
- Return of Assignments
- Student Communication
- Essential Online Information for Students

Details about the following topics are available on your course Blackboard site (where relevant). Refer - www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

Essay topics, readings and due dates
Notes for selected parts of the course

(Additional information)

Schedule of lectures.
(Note: this schedule of lectures is only tentative and may be subject to alteration.)

**Week (1)**
Justifications of the state
*Transcendent justifications: Mandate of heaven, Divine Right of Kings, Theocracy
*Social Contract, democracy
*Public good justifications, utilitarianism
*Conservatism. Burke
*Anarchism

**Week (2)**
Locke’s *Treatises of Government*
Locke’s criticisms of Filmer
Other social contract thinkers. Hobbes, Rousseau
Difficulties with social contract

**Week (3)**
Arguments for democracy. Criticisms.

**Week (4)**
Liberalism
J. S. Mill *On Liberty*
Mill’s epistemology. Mill’s argument for tolerance
Mill on freedom of speech.

**Week (5)**
Freedom of speech. Arguments for and against.
Week (6)
Criticisms of liberalism
*Conservative
*Religious
*Marxist

Week (7)
Marxism and Socialism. Arguments for and against.

Week (8)
Marxism and Socialism. Arguments for and against

Week (9)
Varieties of liberalism
Berlin on two concepts of liberalism. Critique of Berlin
“Left wing” and “Right wing” liberalism

Week (10)
Rawls versus Nozick
Economic arguments for “Right wing” liberalism. Von Hayek.

Week (11)
Recent developments. Libertarianism, Rothbard. Liberalism: Rawls, Dworkin.

Week (12)
Recent developments – continued: Otsuka. Sen and positive freedom.

Week (13)
Liberalism and Theocracy in the Modern world