

Syracuse University

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Philosophy

Social and Political Philosophy

Spring, 2023

Philosophy 175

Dr. Ryan

Office: Zoom

Office Hours: By appointment

Cell: 606-356-6560, feel free to text or call between 9 am and 8 pm

Email: pryan03@syr.edu or drpamryan@gmail.com

Pre-Requisite: None

There are no textbooks, there are no in class exams but there should be in class activity. Everything that you need to be a success in this class is on Blackboard, including assigned readings, directions, rubrics, due dates, study guides and lectures. You're welcome.

Audience: This is an introductory level political philosophy class intended for an audience of persons beginning higher education with general knowledge and above average analytical skills who want to know more about the philosophies that have formed the civilization in which they live.

Credits: 3

Course Description:

Classical and contemporary readings on basic topics in social and political philosophy; political obligation and authority, justice and basic rights, liberty and equality, the justification of democracy.

Learning Objectives:

After taking this course, the student should be able to explain the major political philosophies and the impact they have had in shaping Western Civilization. The student should be able to use this information in a constructive manner to be a more informed citizen demonstrated by their ability to engage any topic from different positions. The student will be a more reflective and informed citizen with a better understanding of current political events. By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to understand diverse political perspectives. It is further expected that the student will be able to produce substantive scholarly

written work as well as the ability to present and discuss that written work. Develop student's reading and writing skills.

Requirements:

Exams (2X300=600 points):

There will be two exams throughout the semester. It is expected that the student will be able to demonstrate their ability to understand the political philosophies discussed in class in a substantive, coherent and scholarly manner. The student will also be expected to use this knowledge to assess current social and political issues in a substantive, coherent and scholarly mode. Writing skills *will* be assessed on the Exam as well as the Weekly Forum Posts. See Rubric for more.

Attendance and Participation (200 Points):

There are no unexcused absences for this class. The professor reserves the right to deduct one PERCENT off a student's FINAL GRADE for each unexcused absence up until four (4). After four (4) absences, the student may not pass the course. Obviously, absence from class detracts from the Class Participation grade as well.

Students will be evaluated on their **Participation**. Various methods will be used throughout the semester, but this is in the end a totally subjective evaluation by the professor. I am a reasonable and fair-minded person and will do my best to evaluate participation as objectively as I can. For your part, you should make sure to demonstrate that you have read the material and can participate in class analysis in an effective manner. This means *you need to participate*. You will be given a name card—use it, every class.

*By the end of the semester, I should not only know your name, but also something about what your thoughts are about political philosophy and why. I have purchased and will distribute **name cards which students should display on their desks every class**.*

Of course, I understand events happen and life can be complicated and difficult. If something arises and you need to miss class, contact me so that we can see if we can work something out.

Evaluation:

Exams (2 x 300 points each)	600
Attendance and Participation	<u>200</u>
TOTAL	800 Points Available

The Professor reserves the option to alter this with reasonable notice at any time throughout the semester as deemed necessary by the Professor.

Grading:

Students Final Grades will be determined solely by the percentage of points earned out of percentage of points available.

Letter Grades will be distributed on the following scale:

95-100=A

90-94= A-

87-89=B+

84-87=B

80-83=B-

77-79=C+

74-77=C

70-73=C-

63-69=D

62 or Below=F

Any late work or make-up work must be discussed with the Professor. Each case will be handled in the manner the Professor sees best depending on the situation. In general, make-up work will be allowed for University approved excuses for two weeks following the missed work. Late work will not generally be accepted but the Professor is willing to consider individual cases and may allow for late work with or without a deduction of points. The Professor reserves the right to not accept late work at all.

Disability-Related Accommodations:

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498, TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented Disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Diversity and Disability:

Syracuse University values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. My goal is to create learning environments that are useable, equitable, inclusive and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment or achievement, I invite any student to meet with me to discuss additional strategies beyond accommodations that may be helpful to your success.

***Academic Integrity Policy:**

Please be aware that I will be using anti-AI technology like GPT Zero to evaluate work for authenticity as well as anti-plagiarism tools like Turnitin.

Syracuse University's academic integrity policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn

about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. **The presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of academic integrity policy.** The presumptive penalty for a first instance of academic dishonesty by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. SU students are required to read an online summary of the university's academic integrity expectations and provide an electronic signature agreeing to abide by them twice a year during pre-term check-in on MySlice. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/>. Please note: The Violation and Sanction Classification Rubric establishes recommended guidelines for the determination of grade penalties by faculty and instructors, while also giving them discretion to select the grade penalty they believe most suitable, including course failure, regardless of violation level. Any established violation in this course may result in course failure regardless of violation level.

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ORANGE ALERT:

Orange Alert, SU's crisis notification system, uses text messages, phone, and email alerts to provide rapid notification and instructions to members of the University community in the event of a critical incident in progress. Critical incidents could include an individual who is considered armed and dangerous, a hazardous materials incident, an explosion, or any other event in which there is an immediate threat of physical harm or death to campus community members. We recognize that faculty may consider activated cell phones as an interruption to their class. However, the public safety department recommends that faculty members leave their own cell phones on vibrate in order to receive text messages about a potential emergency situation. It is also recommended that faculty designate several class members to leave their cell phones on vibrate in order to receive notifications in the event of a critical incident. ORANGE ALERT contact information for students, faculty, and staff is drawn from the MySlice online information system; please keep your contact information current.

In the event of an emergency,

- Phone emergency line from on-campus: 711
- Phone emergency line from off-campus: 315.443.2224
- Phone emergency line from cell phone providers ATT/Verizon/Nextel: #78

For complete details on emergency procedures, visit: <http://emergencyguide.syr.edu/>.

Phil 175
Spring, 2023
Daily Assignments:

ALL ASSIGNED READINGS ARE ON BLACKBOARD UNDER THE CONTENTS TAB. [CLICK CONTENTS](#), [CLICK PLATO](#) AND THEN READ THE ASSIGNED PAGES FROM THE LINKED READING.

Jan. 17:

Introduction

Jan. 19:

Trial and Death of Socrates

Jan. 24:

Plato, Republic,

Jan. 24 and Jan. 26:

Plato, Republic

Jan. 31 and Feb. 2:

Aristotle

Feb. 7:

Cicero

Feb. 9:

Aquinas

Feb. 14 and 16:

Machiavelli

Feb21:

Discussion and Reflection Day

Feb. 23:

EXAM ONE IN CLASS: NO MATERIAL

Feb. 28 and March 2:

Hobbes

March 7 and March 9:

Rousseau

March 10-20: Spring Break: No Classes

March 21 and March 23:

Smith

March 28 and 30:

Kant

April 4:

Hegel

April 6 and April 11:

Marx

April 13:

Mill

April 18:

Distributive Justice Exercise

April 20:

Rawls

April 25:

Nozick

April 27:

Discussion and Reflection

FINAL EXAM Tuesday, May 9, 10:15-12:15

☐ Reply

☐ Reply all

☐ Forward