

Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy
Philosophy 175
Spring, 2022
Tu, Th 12:30-1:25, 104 Eggers

Prof. David Sobel
Daidsobel3@gmail.com

[Caution: there is another David Sobel on campus. Use only the above e-mail address.]

Office: 308 Hall of Languages

Office hours: Tues, 1:30-3:30 and by appointment.

Office hours will be held over Zoom during the pandemic. Please contact me for an appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

Christopher Bousquet (crbousqu@syr.edu)

Felipe Eurenio Oliveira (feolivei@syr.edu)

Required book:

An Introduction to Political Philosophy, third edition, by Jonathan Wolff.

Other readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Grades: This class will have a mid-term exam, a final exam, and 5 one-page papers. The mid-term will count for 25 percent of one's grade, the final for 35 percent, and the 5 short papers 35 percent. Class attendance and discussion will count for 5 percent.

This is an introduction to Social and Political Philosophy. We will be considering abstract questions about what, if anything, gives the government the right to rule, what the most just distribution of wealth and property would look like, the appropriate limits of government intervention into our lives, what justification can be given for democracy, and similar issues. We will also consider less abstract political issues about mass incarceration, abortion, sexual assault, our duties to those in desperate need, and drug legalization.

Late Work Policy: For each day an assignment is late the final grade on the assignment is deducted 1/3 of a letter grade (including weekend days). So, e.g., if an assignment that is due on Friday would've received a B, but is instead turned in 3 days late on Monday, it now receives a C.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend every class. You are allowed to have three unexcused absences before your absences may result in your grade being negatively affected.

Electronic devices (phones, laptops, I-Pads, etc.) are not allowed to be used in class except for note-taking.

Academic Dishonesty: 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>.

Any case of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. Additional penalties for plagiarism may also be imposed in more serious cases.

Disability

Our community values diversity and seeks to promote meaningful access to educational opportunities for all students. Syracuse University and I are committed to your success and to supporting Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990). This means that in general no individual who is otherwise qualified shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, solely by reason of having a disability.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located at 804 University Avenue, room 309, or call 315-443-4498 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.