

**Syracuse University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Philosophy
Social and Political Philosophy
Fall, 2022
Philosophy 175
Dr. Ryan**

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

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

Office: Via Zoom by appointment

Required Text: None

Pre-Requisite: None

There are no textbooks, there are no in class exams or activities. Everything that you need for this class is on Blackboard, including assigned readings, directions, rubrics, due dates, study guides and lectures.

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.

I sincerely look forward to sharing some wonderful discussions over the great social and political philosophical concepts. I look forward to learning your perspective and hearing your concerns and worries over the different issues we shall cover, from social harmony to climate change.

The class is a safe place, ideas are to be discussed in a calm and rational manner. People are different from their ideas, we seek to understand the concepts, the ideas. Conflicting ideas and perspectives are to be expected and welcomed. Civilized disagreement and discussion of various perspectives is of course vigorously encouraged.

It is my goal for each of you that you leave this class with a better conception of how the great ideas have formed Western Civilization *accompanied* with the ability and desire to at least begin to reasonably analyze social and political philosophies for oneself.

Credits: 3

Course Description:

Classical and contemporary readings on basic topics in Western social and political philosophy-- Why do people seek to come together in the first place? What is it, if anything, that we seek from being in a community? How do we value freedom with security? What is the best type of government, if any? How do we decide who gets what--the distribution of resources (power, rights, money, food, shelter, education, health care, safety)? Are there really such things as human rights—where would they come from, what would they entail? What do we mean by ‘justice’ or ‘liberty; or ‘equality’? And what would it mean to actually live by these ideals?

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.

Requirements:

Weekly Forum Posts (10 x 30=300 points):

Most weeks, the Professor will post a prompt for class reflection on Black Board under the Assignments tab. CHECK THE DAILY ASSIGNMENTS UNDER THE ANNOUNCEMENT TAB TO THE LEFT FOR DATES OF WFP'S. *Note that while WFP's will be posted at the end of each week as stated on the Daily Assignments, WFP's are not due until Dec. 16.*

It is however **strongly** recommended that you keep up with the WFP's as they are about that week's topic and you will write a better response if you do them as we go along rather than try to do them all at the end. The Rubric for WFP's is below. It will also be posted on the Contents page.

Exam (1 x 300=300 points):

There will be one exam. It is expected that the student will be able to demonstrate their ability to understand several of the political philosophies discussed in class substantively and in a scholarly manner. The student will also be expected to use this knowledge to assess current political situations in a substantive and scholarly mode. The Exam will be posted on Black Board under the Assignments tab.

Final Essay (300 Points):

Students will be expected to write a final essay over a topic of their choosing. We will cover topics like Mass Incarceration, Reparations, National Distributive Justice, Global Distributive Justice and Immigration. All these topics can be informed by both current facts and our greatest thinkers. This is what I expect this final essay to do. Pick one of the topics that speaks to you, do enough research to say something intelligent about it and integrate at least one if not more of the philosophical theories you have learned this semester.

This paper will be due Dec. 16 @ 11:59 pm.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for class participation. Attendance will be taken daily and having two unexcused absences will lower a grade by 1/2 letter point. Having 3 unexcused absences will lower a grade by a full letter point (A to B). Any student who has four or more absences is in danger of failing the course on absence alone.

Evaluation:

**Weekly Forum Posts
(10 x 30 points each)**

300

Exam

300

Final Essay

300

TOTAL

900 Points Available

(Minus Any Attendance Issues)

Grading:

Students Final Grades will be determined by the percentage of points earned out of percentage of points available. As stated above, attendance concerns

can severely impact a students' grade. As also stated above, keep up with the WFP's, they have a big impact on your grade.

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-

65-69=D

60-64=D-

59 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 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:**

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.

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/>.

Should we need to move online at any point during the semester, the syllabus will be re-evaluated for the best use of time given when or if we move online.

* In other words, this syllabus is subject to change at the professors discretion with adequate notice, especially if we move entirely online.