Social & Political Philosophy – PHIL 201
University Studies Program

Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Pre 1998
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2014
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: April 2019

GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to explore some of the basic questions about the nature of human beings in society, and to investigate the philosophical foundations of political structures. We shall analyze the concepts of liberty, justice, political power and historical laws. We address questions about political obligation and rights, as well as conduct a thinker-by-thinker historical analysis of social and political thought in the Western Tradition. Our resources include readings from Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, Nietzsche and many more, both classical and contemporary.

Program Information: This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

Delivery: This course is delivered face-to-face, and online.

COTR Credits: 3

Hours for this course: 45 hours

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours for Face-to-Face Delivery:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructional Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Hours</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars / Tutorials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory / Studio Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicum / Field Experience Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Contact Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practicum Hours (if applicable):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Practicum</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-the-job Experience</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Work Experience</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Contact Hours

- Online Delivery consisting of weekly discussion topics
COURSE OUTLINE AUTHOR OR CONTACT:
Vance Mattson, MA (McGill)

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Department Head: Ildi Walkley
E-mail: walkley@cotr.bc.ca

Dean of Instruction: Darrell Bethune
E-mail: bethune@cotr.bc.ca

EDCO

Valid from: September 2014 – April 2019

EDUCATION COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE

COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:

Prerequisites: PHIL 101 or 102

Corequisites: None

Flexible Assessment (FA):

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA

☐ Yes  ☐ No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

Transfer Credit: For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer.

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

Prior Course Number: N/A
Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Alan Ebenstein. *Introduction to Political Thinkers*. 2nd edition: Thomson-Wadsworth

*Please see the instructor’s syllabus or check COTR’s online text calculator http://www.cotr.bc.ca/bookstore/cotr_web.asp?IDNumber=164 for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.*

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

University Studies at the College of the Rockies allow students to complete their first two years of study towards a university degree. College students gain academic knowledge and skills in their chosen subjects. They also cover general problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The combination can empower them to participate as educated citizens in the economic, political, and cultural life of their communities.

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to

- read and understand original works of Social and Political Philosophy;
- identify, explain and respond to key arguments in classical, modern and contemporary works in Social and Political Philosophy;
- understand the evolution of Social and Political Philosophy in the Western Tradition from an historical perspective;
- identify the major world views and underlying philosophical assumptions in key periods, as well as in individual thinkers, in the field of Social and Political Philosophy;
- write cogent, well-researched and argued short and long essays in the field;
- appreciate the specific historical context, both in the material and ideal spheres, associated with each period and thinker in Social and Political Philosophy;
- compare and contrast the various ideas of Social and Political thinkers; and
- appreciate the modern relevance of the traditional and modern foundations of Social and Political Philosophy.

COURSE TOPICS:

- Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy
- Plato
- Aristotle
- The Hellenistic Age & the Roman Lawyers
- St. Augustine
- St. Thomas
- Machiavelli
- Thomas Hobbes
- John Locke
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Karl Marx
- Friedrich Nietzsche

*See instructor’s syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*
ESSENTIAL SKILLS DEVELOPED IN THIS COURSE:
Students can expect to develop the following skills in this course:

Computer Skills
- Create a simple document in Word
- Perform basic document editing
- Understand file management: save, store and retrieve documents
- Use email to send and read messages, attach documents
- Print documents

Skills for Busy Students
- Manage study time effectively
- Set educational priorities and goals
- Recognize personal learning style
- Use effective note-taking strategies
- Develop problem-solving and memory skills
- Practice strategies to succeed at exams and tests

Writing Skills
- Identify a purpose and audience for writing
- Develop an argument or thesis statement
- Apply pre-writing strategies and develop a draft
- Use correct punctuation and grammar

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT (Face-to-Face Delivery):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>% Of Total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT (Online Delivery):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>% Of Total Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the instructor’s syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.
EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of “0” for the exam.

COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark</td>
<td>≥ 90</td>
<td>89-85</td>
<td>84-80</td>
<td>79-76</td>
<td>75-72</td>
<td>71-68</td>
<td>67-64</td>
<td>63-60</td>
<td>59-55</td>
<td>54-50</td>
<td>&lt; 50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A grade of “D” grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

COURSE CHANGES:

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.