



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## PHL 380 Modern Political Philosophy

Summer 2023

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 55 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

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This is a general introduction to the broad themes of political philosophy and social theory: How human life is and should be organized into societies; the nature of political systems and different forms of government; the relationship between the individual and the state; the nature of justice; the influence of economy on society; how human nature influences social nature; and the meaning of freedom and democracy.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a competent understanding of central concepts of social and political discourse such as political authority, political obligation, freedom, coercion, rights, equality, justice;
2. Examine the most influential trends in social and political thought such as anarchism, liberalism, libertarianism, egalitarianism, marxism, socialism, communitarianism, feminism, and evaluate their arguments;
3. Apply theoretical principles to the exploration and resolution of concrete social and political problems of the present;
4. Critically evaluate central theories or issues and relevant arguments in the fields of social and political philosophy.

### PREREQUISITES

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None



## GRADING

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Final Paper and Presentation	20 Points
Midterm	15 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### Required Texts:

Christman, John. *Social and Political Philosophy: A contemporary introduction*. London: Routledge, 2017.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None.

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy Topic 2: Plato on the Origins of the State Topic 3: Justice in the City Topic 4: The State of Nature</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Assignment #1</p>



Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Tyranny and the Republic Topic 6: Telos of Political Association Topic 7: Political Association and Law Topic 8: Monarchy <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz #1
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Human Rights Topic 10: Right to Revolution Topic 11: Civil Rights Topic 12: The Social Contract <b>Assessments:</b> Assignment #2 Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Political Economy Topic 14: Democratic Transparency Topic 15: Utilitarianism Topic 16: Nozick on Rights/ Nozick on Justice <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz #2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Rawls on Libertarianism Topic 18: Political Points of View Topic 19: Applied Political Philosophy Topic 20: Final Exam Review <b>Assessments:</b> Final Paper and Presentation Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.



2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**



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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.