



蘇州大學
Soochow University

POL 360 Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This interdisciplinary course provides students with an integrated understanding of the dynamic interplay between politics, philosophy, and economics. Drawing from the strengths of each discipline, this course aims to foster critical thinking, analytical skills, and a nuanced understanding of how these three fields intersect. Through a combination of theoretical exploration, case studies, and practical applications, students will gain insights into the complex relationships that shape societal structures and policies.

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

1. Identify and analyze the intersections and overlaps between these disciplines;
2. Examine ethical theories and their application to political and economic decisions;
3. Evaluate the moral implications of economic policies and political actions;
4. Understand the structure and functioning of political institutions and systems;
5. Analyze global political and economic issues from a philosophical standpoint.

PREREQUISITES

None

GRADING

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



ITEM	POINTS
4 Assignments	20 Points
2 Quizzes	20 Points
Research Paper and Presentation	20 Points
Midterm Exam	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

Required Texts:

Daniel Hausman et al, *Economic Analysis, Moral Philosophy, and Public Policy*, (2017).

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

There will be specific reading assignments based on class activity.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Ethics in Welfare Economics Topic 2: Ethics in Positive Economics Topic 3: The Economic Conception of Rationality Topic 4: Rationality in Positive and Normative Economics</p> <p>Assessments: Assignment #1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Rationality, Norms, and Morality Topic 6: The Influence of Moral Norms on Economic Behavior Topic 7: Utilitarianism Topic 8: Contemporary Consequentialism</p> <p>Assessments:</p>



	Assignment #2 Quiz #1
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Welfare and Efficiency Topic 10: Criticisms of Efficiency as a Normative Standard Topic 11: Freedom and Rights Topic 12: Welfare Economics in Limbo Assessments: Assignment #3 Midterm Exam
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Equality and Egalitarianism Topic 14: Justice and Contractualism Topic 15: Social Choice Topic 16: Game Theory Assessments: Assignment #4 Quiz #2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Paternalism Topic 18: The Minimum Wage Topic 19: Sex, Dating, and Marriage Markets Topic 20: Animal Ethics Assessments: Research 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

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



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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.