

**PHIL3233**  
**Social and Political Philosophy 社會政治哲學**

**Course Outline**

<b>Time :</b>	<b>T 13:30-16:15</b>	<b>Location :</b>	<b>ERB 713</b>
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**Course overview**

This course introduces major theories in social and political philosophy, including liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, Marxism, and multiculturalism. The course aims to help students to understand how these various theories address central political issues, such as equality, liberty, democracy, state legitimacy, and distributive justice.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

**Learning outcomes**

1. To gain a basic understanding of major theories in social and political philosophy.
2. To grasp a general conceptual framework for political inquiries.
3. To be able to read critically and write analytically on political issues.
4. To be able to relate philosophical theories to contemporary political problems.

**Topics**

1. Utilitarianism
2. Liberal Egalitarianism
3. Libertarianism
4. Marxism
5. Communitarianism
6. Citizenship Theory
7. Multiculturalism
8. Feminism

**Learning activities**

Learning activities of this course include lectures, tutorials, reading essays, presentations, and writing two papers:

1. Lecture: one 2-hour session every week (mandatory).
2. Tutorial: one 1-hour session every week (mandatory).
3. Reading: around 40 pages of required reading every week.
4. Presentation: one presentation on an assigned topic.
5. Writing: one short essay (3,000 words) and one term paper (5,000 words).

### Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Participation	10%
Presentation	20%
Short Essay	30%
Term Paper	40%

### Recommended learning resources

<p>Kymlicka, W. (2002) <i>Contemporary Political Philosophy</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Goodin, R. and P. Pettit (eds.) (1997) <i>Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology</i>, Blackwell Press.</p> <p>Matravers, D. and J. Pike (eds.) (2005) <i>Debates in Contemporary Political Philosophy</i>, Routledge Press.</p> <p>Sterba, J. P. (ed.) (2011) <i>Social and Political Philosophy: Contemporary Perspectives</i>, Routledge Press.</p> <p>Freeman, S. (ed.) (2002) <i>The Cambridge Companion to Rawls</i>, Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Holtug, N. and K. Lippert-Rasmussen (eds.) (2007) <i>Egalitarianism</i>, Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Rawls, J. (2008) <i>Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy</i>, Harvard University Press.</p>
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### Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Preliminaries			
2	Utilitarianism	Ch. 2, "Utilitarianism", Kymlicka (2002) Arneson, "Rawls versus Utilitarianism"		
3	Liberal Egalitarianism (1)	Sections 1-3, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002) Nagel, "Rawls and Liberalism"		
4	Liberal Egalitarianism (2)	Sections 4-5, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002) Frankfurt, "Equality as a Moral Ideal"		
5	Liberal Egalitarianism (3)	Tang & Zhong, "Toward a Demystification of Egalitarianism" Parfit, "Equality and Priority"		
6	Libertarianism (1)	Sections 1-2, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002) Nozick, "Distributive Justice"		
7	Libertarianism (2)	Sections 3-5, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002) Machan, "Libertarian Justice"		
8	Marxism	Ch. 5, "Marxism", Kymlicka (2002) Cohen, "Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat"		
9	Communitarianism (1)	Sections 1-7, Ch. 6, "Communitarianism", Kymlicka (2002) Sandel, "The Procedural Republic and the		

		Unencumbered Self”		
10	Communitarianism (2)	Sections 8-11, Ch. 6, “Communitarianism”, Kymlicka (2002)  Mulhall & Swift, “Rawls and Communitarianism”		
11	Citizenship Theory	Ch. 7, “Citizenship Theory”, Kymlicka (2002)  Young, “Polity and Group Difference”		
12	Multiculturalism	Ch. 8, “Multiculturalism”, Kymlicka (2002)  Barry, “Theories of Group Rights”		
13	Feminism	Ch. 9, “Feminism”, Kymlicka (2002)  Jaggar, “Feminism and the Objects of Justice”		

**Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)**

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Zhong Lei
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Telephone:	
Email:	