

PHIL3233
Social and Political Philosophy 社會政治哲學

Course Outline (tentative)

Time: T 15:30-17:15

Location: MMW715

Tutorial time to be arranged

Course overview

This course introduces major theories in social and political philosophy, including liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, Marxism, multiculturalism, and feminism. 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
7. Democracy
8. Feminism

Learning activities

1. Lecture: one 2-hour session every week (mandatory).
2. Tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks (mandatory).
3. Reading: around 30 pages of required reading every week.
4. Writing: midterm paper and final paper.

Assessment scheme

| Task nature | Weight |
|---|---------------|
| Tutorial (10% for one presentation, 20% for four-session discussions) | 30% |
| Midterm Paper (1,500 words in English or 3,000 words in Chinese; assigned topics) | 30% |
| Final Paper (2,000 words in English or 4,000 words in Chinese; any topic of the course) | 40% |

Required resources

W. Kymlicka (2002) *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press.
Other selected readings

Recommended resources

A. Swift (2014) *Political Philosophy*, 3rd Edition, Polity Press.
 R. Goodin and P. Pettit (eds.) (2005) *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Blackwell Press.
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu>)

Course schedule

| Week | Topics | Required reading | Tutorials |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|------------------|
| 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) Rawls, "Justice as Fairness" | |
| 4 | Liberal Egalitarianism (2) | Sections 4-5, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002) Frankfurt, "Equality as a Moral Ideal" | |
| 5 | Liberal Egalitarianism (3) | Parfit, "Equality and Priority" Tang & Zhong, "Toward a Demystification of Egalitarianism" | |
| 6 | Libertarianism (1) | Sections 1-2, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002) Nozick, "Distributive Justice" | |

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| 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) Gutmann, "Communitarian Critics of Liberalism" | |
| 11 | Citizenship | Ch. 7, "Citizenship Theory", Kymlicka (2002) Patten, "The Republican Critique of Liberalism" | |
| 12 | Democracy | Christiano, "Democracy", <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> Anderson, "Democracy: Instrumental vs. Non-Instrumental Value" | |
| 13 | Feminism | Ch. 9, "Feminism", Kymlicka (2002) Jaggar, "Feminism and the Objects of Justice" | |
| 14 | Review | | |

Details of course website

This course uses Blackboard for announcements and discussions. Reading materials, assignments, and lecture notes will be put in a Dropbox folder (the link to this folder is posted on Blackboard).

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

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| Teacher | |
| Name: | Zhong Lei |
| Office location: | Room 424, Fung King Hey Building |
| Telephone: | 3943 7156 |
| Email: | leizhong@cuhk.edu.hk |
| Course repository: | |

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| TA | |
| Name: | |
| Office location: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Email: | |

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.