Course Name: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
Course Number: PHL 207
Credits: 4
Instructor name: Marta D. Kunecka
Instructor email: kuneckam@onid.orst.edu

Successful completion of this course fulfills OSU’s Bacc Core Western Culture requirement.
The Baccalaureate Core (Bacc Core) Curriculum represents what the OSU faculty believes is the foundation for students’ further understanding of the modern world. Informed by natural and social sciences, arts, and humanities, the Bacc Core requires students to think critically and creatively, and to synthesize ideas and information when evaluating major societal issues. Importantly, the Bacc Core promotes understanding of interrelationships among disciplines in order to increase students’ capacities as ethical citizens of an ever-changing world.”

Source: http://catalog.oregonstate.edu/bcc.aspx

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Introductory study of the philosophical justifications of political systems and philosophical theories about the rights and obligations of citizens and governments. (H) (Bacc Core Course)

(...)our own ways of thinking about social and political are the direct descendants of conceptions developed by the past philosophers: understanding where we are know involves understanding how we got here.

A. Haworth, “Understanding the Political Philosophers”

Throughout the course you will not only gain valuable basic skills of philosophical analysis and critical evaluation of the issues concerning our political realm but you will also acquire the essential knowledge in the spectrum of political philosophy. My intent is not only to present you with distant theories and dry facts but to also give you necessary tools needed to reevaluate, formulate and strengthen your own perspective on the political life and your own place in the society.
You may think that studying political life in this course will require you to know millions of facts about current politics. Other sciences like political science, economy or sociology are descriptive in nature and attempt to describe and find out how things really are. Political philosophy on the other hand is a normative science, which means it asks questions and evaluates the standards as well as tries to establish norms of the best possible political life. It tries to discover how things should be and not only describe of how things are.

Communication
Please post all course-related questions in the General Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please email your instructor for matters of a personal nature. The instructor will reply to course-related questions and email within 24-48 hours.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact:
Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu Tel: 800-667-1465
Blackboard
This course will be delivered via Blackboard where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Blackboard site you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:
1. Gain an introductory level of knowledge in the field of political philosophy which will further your understanding of the world and society you live in as well as your rights and obligations as a citizen. Active participation in the lectures as well as close and critical reading of the assigned texts will provide you with this opportunity.
2. Conduct careful and critical readings of philosophical texts and comprehend their content as well as to draw the main ideas and concepts apart from supporting and, sometimes, less important ones. This goal can be achieved with the help of Study Guides provided for each weekly reading.
3. Be able to articulate competing theories of political and societal organizations, rights and obligation of the citizens as well as governments, ideologies and ideas concerning the political nature of humans. The class discussion as well as the writing assignments will serve as the assessment tool of your progress in this field.
4. Assess the cogency, logical value and soundness of philosophical arguments and if necessary point to the fallacies employed either in your own thinking or in the thinking of your peers. You will have a chance to practice such skills in your own writing but also by assessing the writing of your peers and engaging in thoughtful discussions.
5. Critically evaluate political events by employing the philosophical “tools” and knowledge you have gained in the class. You will be able to “make a use” of philosophy in such a way as to better understand and address personal, social, and political problems.
6. Discussion forums will allow you to develop and articulate your own understanding of the political aspects of your life as well as will direct you towards thinking about how to best apply the various aspects of the gained knowledge in practical life.
7. Further develop and articulate a reasonably coherent and well-supported personal worldview.
8. Write coherent essays using textual support, documentation (where applicable), and standard grammar.
9. Thoughtfully and respectfully engage in the conversation with those who hold a different philosophical worldview.

Evaluation of Student Performance

1/ Discussions – 40%
2/ Two Critical Essays – 20%
3/ Homework Assignments – 20%
4/ Two Tests – 20%

1/ DISCUSSIONS: You are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. You will need to participate in our discussions on at least two different days each week, with your first and the second post due no later than Wednesday evening, and the rest due by the end of each week. Discussions are the most important part of your grade so please contribute to them wisely and frequently. Each week you will be required to post at least 3 fully developed posts (the grading scale will be posted in the Course Documents Folder) concerning the weekly discussion topic. The posts must include the response to the given topic as well as show your involvement with other classmates e.g. responding to your peers, expanding the given topic or contributing to the discussion by sharing your own thoughts that are inspired by the weekly

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discussions. I encourage you to get involved in the discussions and post however much you want but make sure that you stay on topic and further the weekly discussions.

Each post will be worth max. 3 points. For all three well-developed and thought-out posts you will be able to receive 9 points each week. The total points for your discussion posts are 90 and they are worth 40% of your grade.

2/ ESSAYS: There will be 2 critical essays due in the class. On weeks 4 and 9 you will be asked to submit a critical response paper based on a movie that you would be required to watch and critically analyze. The essay topics are posted in the Assignment Folder. For each essay you will be able to get max. 20 points. Two of your essays will be worth max. 40 points and that equal 20% of your grade.

(The grading scale is posted in the Course Documents Folder)

3/ HOMEWORK: On 5 weeks out of 10, you will be required to do some additional homework. The homework will require you to write a short reflection piece on the source reading, listening to an audio file or watching an online video. Each assignment will be explained in detail in each weekly folder. Every assignment will be worth 8 points so for 5 assignments you will be able to gain 40 points and it will constitute 20% of your grade.

4/ TESTS: There will be two tests in this class. The tests will ask you to define some crucial terms that you have learned, write a short paragraph response to a given problem and answer a couple of multiple choice questions. Each test will be worth 20 points. The total points for this assignment will be 40 points that will constitute 20% of your final grade.

Test Time Limits: Tests in this class are timed; if you exceed the time limit on an exam, you will be assessed a penalty of 10% for every five minute interval beyond the time limit.

GRADING YOUR PERFORMANCE IN CLASS:
The final grading scale in this course will be as follows:
A 100 – 91%; B 90 – 81%; C 80 – 71%; D 70 – 61%; F 60 and below

Incompletes
Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Learning Resources
1/ Wolff J., An Introduction to Political Philosophy, Oxford University Press 2006 (Revised Edition)
2/ Additional Source Readings will be available through the provided links or directly on Blackboard.
3/ Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (further referred to as SEP)

Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll (http://osubookstore.com/ or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Introduction to Philosophy | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff, p.1-5  
Source Reading: Plato, Apology | 1. Online discussion  
| 2    | The Human Nature and The State of Nature | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff, p.6-33;  
Source Reading (excerpts):  
1. Aristotle, *Nicomachaen Ethics*  
2. Homework: Reflection Piece # 1 | Reflection Piece is due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 3    | Social Contract and the State | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff, p. 34-61;  
Source Reading (excerpts):  
1. Locke, *Two Treatises on Civil Government*  
2. Weber, *Politics as a Vocation* | 1. Online discussion  
2. Homework 2: Watch the Movie # 1 | Homework due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 4    | Who Should Rule and the Question of Democracy | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff, p. 62-103;  
Source reading (excerpts):  
1. Plato, *The Republic*  
2. Mill, *Utilitarianism*  
2. Homework: Essay # 1 | Critical essay due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 5    | Civil Society and Citizenship | Textbook Reading: SEP entry  
Source Reading (excerpts):  
1. Pericles, *Funeral Oration*  
2. Homework: Reflection Piece # 2  
3. Study for your TEST # 1 | Test # 1 is due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 6    | The Place of Liberty | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff p.104-132;  
Source Reading (excerpts):  
1. Berlin, *Two Concepts of Liberty*  
2. Dworkin, *What Rights Do We Have?* | 1. Online discussion  
2. Homework: Reflection piece # 3 | Homework due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 7    | The Distribution of Property and Justice | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff, p.133-176  
Source reading (excerpts):  
1. Plato, *Republic*  
2. Rawls, *Two Principles of Justice* | 1. Online discussion  
2. Homework: Reflection piece # 4 | Homework due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 8    | Individualism and Community | Reading: SEP entry  
Source reading (excerpts):  
1. Macintyre, *After Virtue* | 1. Online discussion  
2. Homework: Watch the movie # 2 | Homework due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 9    | Equality and Feminism | Textbook Reading: J. Wolff, p.177-200  
Source reading:  
1. Gilligan, *In a Different Voice* | 1. Online discussion  
2. Homework: Essay # 2 | Essay due at Midnight, Sunday |
| 10   | Issues of Global Justice | Reading: SEP entry  
Source reading:  
2. Homework: Reflection Piece# 5  
3. Study for your TEST # 2 | Test # 2 is due at Midnight, Sunday |
Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS) with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the Office of Student Conduct: Information and Regulations.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Avoiding Academic Dishonesty, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:

a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled, initially, by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.
Conduct in this Online Classroom
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility.

Tutoring
NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Blackboard class by clicking on the Tools button in your course menu.

OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching
Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.