

PHI 404 – Advanced Political Philosophy

Monsoon Semester 2018, New Academic Block TR 001, Tuesday and Thursday 10:10 to 11:40 AM

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Office Hours: Thursday 13:00 to 15:00 in New Academic Block 320 and by appointment

About This Course: Topic and Goals

In this course, we will be read some recent books in analytic political philosophy. We will read them slowly and carefully and from cover to cover. This will give us a very thorough understanding of a few particular topics.

Below are the **goals** for this course. Our class sessions and homework are designed not just to help you learn about contemporary political philosophy, but also for you to learn how to:

- Identify a philosopher's argument and summarize it in your own words
- Generate questions about, extensions of, and objections to the argument
- Reflect on, refine, and articulate your own views on the various topics we address

Course Content

As a class, we will choose which books to read. I have put all the possible readings in a separate document. All readings are available on the course web site at <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/1374934>. If you can afford to, I encourage you to purchase the books we will read, because it is often easier to read a book on paper rather than on a computer screen. ***Please bring the readings to class each day***, either via hard copy (the book or the PDF copy printed out on paper) or in *easily accessible* electronic form (not on a cellular phone).

Assignments and Grading

There are three kinds of assignments in this class: **weekly reading quizzes**, **weekly discussion posts**, and the **final take-home exam** or **research paper**. Late quizzes or posts will not be accepted except in case of emergency. (Computer issues are not an emergency.) The final will lose points if turned in late, plus an additional loss of points for every additional 24 hours it is late. The number of points lost will depend on how many books we read, so the precise number will be announced once our readings are chosen.

Weekly Reading Quizzes (5% of your grade) are to help you focus on the important parts of the reading and to get instant feedback on whether you have understood the reading. Quizzes are due midnight on Monday. There is one quiz per week, for a total of 13 quizzes. The lowest 3 quizzes will be ignored.

Weekly Discussion Posts (40% of your grade) are your opportunity to get practice writing concisely about philosophy. There are two weekly discussion posts due on the discussion board for that week. One is due by midnight Thursday and the other is due by midnight Monday.

The first post must be 500 words or fewer, and it should summarize a point from one of the readings that week, then offer a **question**, an **extension of the idea or argument**, or a **critique of the idea or argument**. The one due midnight Monday is 250 words or fewer, and it should be a comment on someone else's post, offering an **answer to their question**, **your own question**, an **extension** to their post, or a **critique** of their post.

There are 24 weekly discussion posts due in total. Posts are graded no credit/half credit/full credit and your lowest 6 scores will be dropped. Posts that exceed the word limit will earn half credit at most.

The **Take-Home Final Exam** (40% of your grade) will ask you to summarize points from some of the readings we have done, and then offer **extensions of the idea or argument** or **critiques of the idea or argument**. You may use your discussion posts as a basis for your answers on the final exam. The exam is divided into a few parts, one part for each book we read. Each part is graded out of 50 points. The exam is due Friday, December 14th but you can turn in any or all of its parts early.

Early final exam sections will be graded and returned within ten days. If you turn in a part any time within a week after the last discussion post for that book is due, it will get an extra five points. I will announce the specific due dates for extra credit once we have picked our readings.

If you would prefer, you can write a **Research Paper** instead of the final exam. A research paper should be about 3,500 to 4,500 words long. It requires you to formulate a question related to one of the books we've read and to answer that question by doing some original research. If you would like to write a research paper, please talk to me about it in person or through email by the end of mid-term break (October 21st). The research paper is due the same time as the final exam on Friday, December 14th.

Class Participation (15% of your grade) is required. This includes attendance, listening respectfully to me and to your fellow students, and offering thoughtful questions and contributions to the discussion. Using mobile phones or computers for non-class purposes, browsing the Internet, coming in late, not showing up, or otherwise ignoring people is not respectful and will reduce your participation grade.

Grade Breakdown:

- 5% - Weekly Reading Quizzes** (13, lowest 3 ignored)
- 40% - Weekly Discussion Posts** (24, lowest 6 ignored)
- 40% - Take-Home Final or Research Paper** (due December 14th)
- 15% - Class Participation**

Class Grade Rubric:

<80-77% = C+	
100-97% = A+	<77-74% = C
<97-94% = A	<74-70% = C-
<94-90% = A-	<70-67% = D+
<90-87% = B+	<67-64% = D
<87-84% = B	<64-60% = D-
<84-80% = B-	<60-00% = F

Disabilities

If you have disabilities which require some form of accommodation, contact me ahead of time.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Any time you use **words, phrases, ideas, or anything else** in your writing that you did not think up on your own, you must **cite** your source the best of your ability. Words and phrases from others must be enclosed in quotation marks to show that you did not write them yourself. Failure to cite a source is **plagiarism** and it's not okay. Plagiarism may result in a zero on the assignment or in other point reductions. You should not need to use (or cite) outside sources for this class unless you write a research paper, but if you do use them, you must cite them. It is perfectly okay to use points made by your classmates in class or on the discussion boards in your own writing, *as long as you cite them to the best of your ability*. The one exception is that you do not need to cite me for your writing assignments in this class if you use any ideas I mention in class.

Resources

My website has resources on reading, writing, and researching at dannyweltman.com/resources.html. These resources include a glossary for unfamiliar words or phrases and the rubric that I use for grading your writing assignments. I encourage you to examine these resources.

PHI 404 - Schedule and List of Potential Readings

Introduction and Presenting the Books to Choose From (August 28th and 30th)

This week we will go through the syllabus, talk about the assignments, and then familiarize ourselves with the books that we can choose from. Students will pick some books to talk about the next meeting, and then everyone will give a very short presentation on what their books are about on August 30th. Then we will vote on books.

Once we pick the books, this is what the schedule will look like:

Each class meeting, we will discuss one chapter from the assigned book. You must read each chapter before we meet in class to discuss it. Come prepared to talk about the chapter. This means that, ideally, you should bring questions, comments, and other ideas.

Each week, there will be a reading quiz on one of the two assigned chapters. It is due by midnight Monday, the night before we discuss that chapter.

Each week, you will write one discussion post that is 500 words or shorter, about one of the two chapters we are reading that week. The post is due midnight Thursday, the night after our second meeting that week.

Each week, you will write one response post that is 250 words or shorter, responding to a post by one of your classmates from the previous week. This post is due by midnight the next Monday.

So, for example, this is what the schedule will look like for September 4th through September 13th:

Reading Schedule:

Sample Book Author. *Sample Book Title*.
Chapter One (due September 4th)
Chapter Two (due September 6th)
Chapter Three (due September 11th)
Chapter Four (due September 13th)

Reading Quiz Schedule:

Chapter One reading quiz (due midnight September 3rd)
Chapter Three reading quiz (due midnight September 10th)

Discussion Post Schedule:

Discussion posts due midnight September 6th (chapters one and two) and 13th (chapters three and four)
Response posts due midnight September 10th (chapters one and two) and 17th (chapters three and four)

Book List

Author	Title	Topic	Ch	Pg	Pg/ Ch	Estimated Difficulty
1. Meisels, Tamar	<i>Territorial Rights</i>	Territory	8	180	22	3/5
2. Estlund, David	<i>Democratic Authority</i>	Democracy	14	324	23	5/5
3. O'Neill, Onora	<i>Bounds of Justice</i>	Justice	10	231	23	3/5
4. Otsuka, Michael	<i>Libertarianism without Inequality</i>	Liberalism	7	169	24	3/5
5. Miller, David	<i>Strangers in our Midst</i>	Immigration	9	229	25	2/5
6. Sen, Amartya	<i>The Idea of Justice</i>	Justice	18	497	27	5/5
7. Moore, Margaret	<i>A Political Theory of Territory</i>	Territory	10	281	28	3/5
8. Carens, Joseph	<i>The Ethics of Immigration</i>	Immigration	13	385	29	2/5
9. Satz, Deborah	<i>Why Some Things Should Not be for Sale</i>	Markets	9	265	29	3/5
10. Altman, Andrew and Christopher Heath Wellman	<i>A Liberal Theory of International Justice</i>	Justice	8	242	30	3/5
11. Miller, David	<i>National Responsibility and Global Justice</i>	Justice	10	307	30	3/5
12. Simmons, A. John	<i>Boundaries of Authority</i>	Territory	9	273	30	3/5
13. Brennan, Jason	<i>The Ethics of Voting</i>	Democracy	7	223	31	2/5
14. Rehfeld, Andrew	<i>The Concept of Constituency</i>	Democracy	9	279	31	3/5
15. Gaus, Gerald	<i>Contemporary Theories of Liberalism</i>	Liberalism	8	253	31	4/5
16. Gilbert, Margaret	<i>A Theory of Political Obligation</i>	Obligation	11	343	31	4/5
17. Anderson, Elizabeth	<i>Private Government: How Employers Rule our Lives</i>	Oppression	7	223	31	2/5
18. Miller, Seumas	<i>Shooting to Kill: The Ethics of Police and Military Use of Force</i>	Violence	10	313	31	3/5
19. Quong, Jonathan	<i>Liberalism without Perfection</i>	Liberalism	10	341	34	4/5
20. Fabre, Cécile	<i>Cosmopolitan Peace</i>	Violence	10	354	35	4/5
21. Finlay, Christopher	<i>Terrorism and the Right to Resist</i>	Violence	9	356	39	3/5
22. Caney, Simon	<i>Justice Beyond Borders</i>	Justice	8	330	41	2/5
23. Kolers, Avery	<i>Land, Conflict, and Justice</i>	Territory	6	254	42	3/5
24. Chambers, Clare	<i>Sex, Culture, and Justice</i>	Justice	7	305	43	3/5
25. Young, Iris Marion	<i>Inclusion and Democracy</i>	Democracy	7	315	45	4/5
26. Buchanan, Allen	<i>Justice, Legitimacy, and Self-Determination</i>	Justice	11	522	47	4/5
27. Donaldson, Sue and Will Kymlicka	<i>Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights</i>	Animals	7	338	48	3/5