

PHIL 3486 – Kant’s Political Philosophy

Spring 2020, Wednesday and Friday 10:10 AM to 11:40 AM | Office hours via appointment

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About This Course: Topic and Goals

This course covers Kant’s political philosophy. We will focus on his main political philosophical work (the *Doctrine of Right*) and on some of his essays. We will also read secondary literature about Kant.

Below are the **goals** for this course:

- Get a broad overview of the main components of Kant’s political philosophy
- Develop your skills at summarizing, questioning, and evaluating philosophical arguments via close examination of the text and via writing and revision of that writing
- Reflect on, refine, and articulate your own views on the various topics we address

Course Content

Due to the difficulties of online instruction, class attendance is not mandatory, but you are expected to attend class if you are able to, because in-class discussion is invaluable. We meet via Zoom. All course material is available on the course website at <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/2492326>.

Assignments and Grading

There are 5 kinds of assignments in this class: **reading quizzes**, **Perusall annotations**, **500 word papers**, **1,250 word papers**, and **paper revisions**. Late papers will lose 10% of their grade for each day they are turned in late, up to a maximum of 50% off. The late penalty is calculated per hour (0.42% lost per hour). Your grade also depends in part on **discussion participation**.

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. There is one quiz per reading. The lowest 6 reading quiz scores will be dropped.

Perusall Annotation Assignments (10% of your grade) allow you to collaboratively read the readings by using the Perusall website. Canvas has a document detailing examples of annotations you can make on Perusall and explaining the grading system. The lowest 6 Perusall annotation assignment scores will be dropped.

500 Word Papers (30% of your grade) are short writing assignments designed to give you practice writing concisely about philosophy and to give you more detailed feedback about how well you are understanding the material. There are 6 due. The lowest 3 scores will be ignored.

1,250 Word Papers (30% of your grade) are medium length writing assignments designed to get you to reflect more deeply on some of the key topics in Kant. There are 9 due. The lowest 6 scores will be ignored.

Paper Revisions (15% of your grade) are revised resubmissions of 500 word or 1,250 word papers. Using my feedback and your own thoughts about how the paper could be improved, you rewrite one of your papers with the aim of making it better. There are 9 paper revisions due and the lowest 6 scores will be ignored.

Discussion Participation (10% of your grade) can be earned discussion participation by participating in class discussions, by watching recordings of class discussions and posting a discussion response post on Canvas, or by posting discussion questions and replies.

Grade Breakdown:

- 5% - Reading Quizzes (26, lowest 6 dropped)
- 10% - Perusall Annotations (26, lowest 6 dropped)
- 30% - 500 Word Papers (6, lowest 3 dropped)
- 30% - 1,250 Word Papers (9, lowest 6 dropped)
- 15% - Paper Revisions (6)
- 10% - Discussion Participation

Class Grade Rubric:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 100-94% = A | <77-74% = C |
| <94-90% = A- | <74-70% = C- |
| <90-87% = B+ | <70-67% = D+ |
| <87-84% = B | <67-64% = D |
| <84-80% = B- | <64-60% = D- |
| <80-77% = C+ | <60-0% = 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, but if you do use them, you must cite them. It is perfectly okay to use points made by your classmates (or anyone else), *as long as you cite them to the best of your ability*. The one exception is that you do not need to cite me on your writing assignments in this class, unless you want to.

Office Hours, Email Communication, and Due Date Extensions

If you have questions or comments about the course it is best to talk during office hours. I do not have scheduled office hours. If you would like to meet, you can either email me to set up a time to meet, or book an appointment in the open appointment slots via the link on Canvas. I am available to meet outside those slots, so email me if those slots do not work. If you contact me via email, please include "PHI 3486" in the subject line so that I know you are emailing about this course. I will typically not offer extensions on assignment due dates. All of the assignment due dates are available in advance, so if you anticipate not having enough time to do the assignment right before it is due, you should do the assignment earlier. You are expected to work ahead when you have time, rather than to fall behind when you become busy.

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, some of which occur in some of the readings for this course. I encourage you to examine these resources.

Schedule

Each day's reading has an accompanying reading quiz and Perusall annotation assignment, both of which are due 10 AM that day. You should aim to complete them earlier than 10 AM, ideally. You have 24 hours after the due date to add replies to comments that others have written on Perusall. Lectures for the readings should be watched before the readings, although sometimes the lecture will note that it can be watched after the reading instead.

Jan 20: Kant, "An answer to the question: What is enlightenment?" (13-22/8:35-42)

Jan 22: Kant, “On the common saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice” Part II (290-304/8:289-307)

Jan 27: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Introduction to the Doctrine of Right 386-97/6:229-2:242

Jan 29: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Part I Chapter I 401-411/6:245-6:257

500 Word Paper 1 due Feb 1st midnight

Feb 3: Louis-Philippe Hodgson, “Kant on Property Rights and the State”

Feb 5: Rafeeq Hasan, “The provisionality of property rights in Kant’s *Doctrine of Right*”

Feb 10: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Part I Chapter II §10 and Sections I and II (411-26/6:258-6:276)

Feb 12: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Part I Chapter II Section III up through page 436 (426-36/6:276-6:289)

500 Word Paper 2 due Feb 15th midnight

Feb 17: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Part I Chapter III §41 and 42 (450-2/6:305-8) and Part II pages 455-66/6:311-23

Feb 19: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Part II pages 466-478/6:323-337

Feb 22: First batch of 1,250 word papers due

Feb 24: Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right*, Part II pages 478-492/6:337-355

Feb 26: J. P. Messina, “The postulate of private right and Kant’s semi-historical principles of property”

500 Word Paper 3 due March 1st midnight

Mar 3: Sarah Williams Holtman, “Revolution, Contradiction, and Kantian Citizenship”

Mar 5: Lucy Allais, “What Properly Belongs to Me: Kant on Giving to Beggars”

Mar 17: Jennifer Uleman, “External Freedom in Kant’s *Rechtslehre*: Political, Metaphysical”

Mar 19: Kant, “On the common saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice” Part III (304-9/8:307-313)

Mar 22: Second batch of 1,250 word papers due

Mar 24: Kant, “Toward perpetual peace” pages 317-338/8:343-70

Mar 26: Kant, “Toward perpetual peace” pages 338-51/8:370-86

Mar 31: Sankar Muthu, "Justice and Foreigners: Kant's Cosmopolitan Right"

500 Word Paper 4 due April 5th midnight

Apr 7: Pauline Kleingeld, "Kant's Second Thoughts on Colonialism"

Apr 9: Arthur Ripstein, "Kant's Juridical Theory of Colonialism"

Apr 14: Charles Mills, "Kant and Race, Redux"

Apr 16: Lucy Allais, "Kant's Racism"

Apr 17: Alan Kellner, "States of Nature in Immanuel Kant's *Doctrine of Right*"

500 Word Paper 5 due April 19th midnight

Apr 21: Christine Korsgaard, "Taking the Law into Our Own Hands: Kant on the Right to Revolution"

Apr 23: Reidar Maliks, "Kant, the State, and Revolution"

500 Word Paper 6 due 26th April midnight if you want to revise it, 7th May midnight otherwise.

Third batch of 1,250 word papers due 26th April midnight if you want to revise any of them, 7th May midnight otherwise.