

# Philosophy 446: Social and Political Philosophy

## Course Instructor:

**Course Description:** Traditional and contemporary interpretations of the nature of society and the state, and analysis of important concepts such as liberty, justice, law, and right. Prerequisite: Upper-division standing.

## Course Objective: Students will be able to:

- Identify major ideas in social and political philosophy
- Discuss the historical and theoretical influence and importance of those ideas
- Apply the ideas to issues of concern to American citizens as well as non-Americans or to other areas of philosophy
- Demonstrate the value of critical reasoning and a healthy skepticism about such ideas,
- Analyze, compare and contrast, evaluate, and communicate these ideas.

**Required Texts:** (1) Plato, *Republic*, Translated by G.M.A. Grube, Revised by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company, 1992. (2) Aristotle, *Politics*, Translated by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company, 1998. (3) Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings: The Prince, Selections from The Discourses, Letter to Vettori*, Edited and Translated by David Wootton, Hackett Publishing Company, 1994. (4) John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Edited by C.B. Macpherson, Hackett Publishing Company, 1980. (5) John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon, *Cato's Letters: or, Essays on Liberty, Civil and Religious, and other Important Subjects*, Volume One, Edited by Ronald Hamowy, Liberty Fund.

**Formal Requirements:** There will be 300 points total possible in the course, as follows:

- 30 points: attendance and participation (including examination days). Students will receive ½ point for each class session **fully** attended (there are 30 class meetings scheduled during this semester), and ½ point for participating during that class. Although excused absences are noted, they do **not** count toward attendance or participation; excused absences are unforeseen and serious emergencies (such as medical emergencies or death in the family) that are documented afterward or official university activities (which must be e-mailed to the instructor at least one week in advance).
- 120 points: two 60-point 6-8 page research papers (due: October 27 and December 1). These are research papers that must use at least one of the writers from our textbooks as the focus, and the focus of the papers must be fundamentally different from each other. Directions will be discussed on the first day of class and will then be available on WebCampus.
- 90 points: two 45-point midterm examinations (September 29 and November 3). The exams will consist of three 15-point essay questions over the reading material. Make-up exams will be given **only** for excused absences and will be more difficult than the regular exams. Students who will miss the exam should contact the instructor (even by e-mail) as soon as it is known to discuss a make-up date and time; and those who miss the exam due to an emergency should contact the instructor as soon as possible afterwards (even by e-mail) to arrange a make-up date and time.
- 60 points: Final examination (Thursday, December 15, 3:10 pm - 5:10 pm). The exam will consist of four 15-point essay questions. This exam will be cumulative, but will emphasize the material of the last part of the course, that is, the material covered after the second midterm exam. There will be **NO** make-up final examinations given except for excused absences.

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**Grading:** Grades for all graded assignments will be updated on WebCampus after the assignments have been returned to students in class. **Students should assume that the final grading scale for the course shall be a straight scale;** with 300 points in the course, this means the following:

A = 93% = 279+ points	C = 73% = 219 – 230.5 points
A– = 90% = 270 – 278.5 points	C– = 70% = 210 – 218.5 points
B+ = 87% = 261 – 269.5 points	D+ = 67% = 201 – 209.5 points
B = 83% = 249 – 260.5 points	D = 63% = 189 – 200.5 points
B– = 80% = 240 – 248.5 points	D– = 60% = 180 – 188.5 points
C+ = 77% = 231 – 239.5 points	F = 179.5 points or less

N.b.: *Stultum est queri de adversis, ubi culpa est tua* (Publilius Syrus, *Sententiae*)

**Academic Misconduct**— Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Department Policy on Academic Dishonesty:** Students caught engaging in academic dishonesty must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct, and if the accusations are sustained, then in addition to any other penalties, the name of the offending student must be reported to the department.

**Incomplete Grades:** The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed all course work up to the withdrawal date of that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. A student who receives an I is responsible for making up whatever work was lacking at the end of the semester. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Copyright:** The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright/statements.html>.

**Religious Holidays Policy**— Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab

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work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**UNLV Writing Center:** One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching:** The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

**Tutoring and Coaching:** The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call [702-895-3177](tel:702-895-3177). The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)— Disability Resource Center (DRC)—**The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Rebelmail:** By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways student receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu.

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**Final Examination:** The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Library statement:** Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is ([https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject)). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discover, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

**Cell Phones:** All cell phones should be turned off, or put on silent or vibrate mode during class meetings; no disruptions will be tolerated. **All cell phones must be turned off during examinations** – any student who has a phone out during examination time will be considered finished with the exam, and the exam will be turned in immediately.

**Recording Devices:** Recording devices of any kind are prohibited during class time, except with the express permission of the instructor.

**Class Schedule:** The following schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Unless revised in class and on WebCampus, reading assignments are given for the date for which they must be read; **the actual schedule will be updated on WebCampus after every class (as an "announcement"). WebCampus will also be the source of any and all handouts for the course (none will be handed out in class), including the syllabus and assignment directions;** students will be informed that there is a handout in class and in the announcements. (Students who do not have access to WebCampus should come see me.)

N.b. I strongly recommend that you read the Introduction for each book before starting to read the text that we will cover in class.

## WEEK 1

- August 30 Introduction to Course;  
**Plato, *Republic***, Book I (pages 1-31)
- September 1 Book II through 377b (pages 32-53)  
*skim Book II 377b-383c (pages 53-59) and Book III 386a-408c (pages 60-84)*  
Book III 408c-417b (pages 85-93)

## WEEK 2

- September 6 Book IV (pages 94-121)
- September 8 Book V (pages 122-156)

## WEEK 3

- September 13 Book VI (pages 157-185)
- September 15 Book VII 514a-521c (pages 186-193)  
*skim Book VII 521c-531c (pages 193-203)*

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Book VII 531c-end (pages 203-212)

## WEEK 4

September 20

Book VIII (pages 213-240)

September 22

*skim Book IX through 576b (pages 241-246)*  
Book IX 576b-end (pages 246-263)

## WEEK 5

September 27

*skim Book X through 608c (pages 264-279)*  
Book X 608c-end (pages 279-292)

September 29

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION #1**

## WEEK 6

October 4

**Aristotle, *Politics***, Book I, chapters 1-5 (pages 1-9)  
*skim Book I, chapters 6-11 (pages 9-21)*  
Book I, chapters 12-13 (pages 21-25)  
Book II, chapters 1-5 (pages 26-36)

October 6

Book III, chapters 1-15 (pages 65-96)  
*skim Book III, chapters 16-18 (96-100)*

## WEEK 7

October 11

Book IV, chapters 1-4 through 1291b12, chapters 7-9, chapters 11-12, first ¶ of chapter 14 (pages 101-109, 114-117, 118-123, 124-125)  
Book V, chapters 1-2 (pages 134-137)  
*skim Book V, chapters 3-4 (pages 137-144)*

October 13

Book V, chapters 8-9, 11-12 (pages 152-158, 166-174)  
Book VI, chapters 2-5, 8 (pages 176-184, 187-190)

## WEEK 8

October 18\*\*

Book VII, chapters 1-9 (pages 191-206)  
*skim Book VII, chapters 10-17 (pages 206-226)*  
Book VIII, chapters 1-2 (pages 227-228)

\*\*it is possible we will not hold a class meeting on this day, due to the Presidential Debate on October 19; if so, students should use the time to work on their research papers, although I encourage students to still read the Aristotle material assigned. Whether or not we will meet this day will be decided as more information is available, and will be announced in class as well as posted on WebCampus.

October 20

**Machiavelli, *The Prince***, Dedication through Chapter Three (pages 4-14)

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*skim Chapter Four (pages 14-16)*  
Chapters Five through Ten (pages 17-35)  
*skim Chapters Eleven through Fourteen (pages 35-47)*  
Chapters Fifteen through Eighteen (pages 47-55)

## WEEK 9

October 25

*The Prince, skim Chapters Nineteen and Twenty (pages 56-67)*  
Chapters Twenty-One through Twenty-Three (pages 67-73)  
*skim Chapter Twenty-Four (pages 73-74)*  
Chapters Twenty-Five and Twenty-Six (pages 74-80)  
**Machiavelli, *The Discourses***, Dedication-Book One Chap Seven (pages 81-105)  
*skim Book One, Chapter Eight (pages 105-107)*

October 27

**RESEARCH PAPER #1 DUE;**  
*The Discourses*, Book One, Chapters Nine and Ten (pages 107-113)  
*skim Chapters Eleven through Thirteen (pages 113-121)*  
Chapters Sixteen through Eighteen (pages 121-129)  
*skim Chapter Twenty-One (pages 129-131)*  
Chapters Twenty-Six through Fifty-Five (pages 131-153)

## WEEK 10

November 1

*The Discourses*, Chapters Fifty-Eight through Book Two Preface (pages 154-161)  
*skim Book Two Chapter One (pages 161-165)*  
Chapter Two (pages 165-171)  
*skim Chapters Three through Twenty-Seven (pages 171-187)*  
Chapters Twenty-Nine through Book Three, Chapter Nine (pages 187-200)  
*skim Chapters Twenty-Two through Thirty (pages 200-208)*  
Chapters Thirty-One through Forty-Three (pages 208-217)

November 3

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION #2**

## WEEK 11

November 8

**Locke, *Second Treatise of Government***, Preface (pages 2-6)  
Chapter I [*skim §1-2*] (pages 7-8)  
Chapter II [*skim §5 and 15*] (pages 8-14)  
Chapter III (pages 14-16)  
Chapter IV [*skim §24*] (pages 17-18)

November 10

Chapter V [*skim §38-41, 49-51*] (pages 18-30)  
Chapter VI (pages 30-41)

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## WEEK 12

November 15 Chapter VII [*skim* §78-86, 92] (pages 42-51)  
Chapter VIII [*skim* §102-112] (pages 52-65)

November 17 Chapters IX-XIV [*skim* XIV §165 and 167] (pages 65-88)

## WEEK 13

November 22 Chapter XV (pages 88-91)  
*skim* Chapters XVI-XVII (pages 91-101)  
Chaps XVIII-XIX [*skim* XIX §213-218, 232-239] (pages 101-124)

November 24 **NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Recess)**

## WEEK 14

November 29 **Trenchard and Gordon, *Cato's Letters*, Volume One, *skim* Dedication (1-10)**  
Preface (pages 11-34, especially 11-17)  
[Wikipedia entry on South Sea Company, found on WebCampus and at  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Sea\\_Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sea_Company)]  
Essay No. 2 (pages 40-43)  
Essay No. 3 (pages 43-47)  
Essay No. 6 (pages 55-59)  
*skim* Essay No. 7 (pages 59-63)  
Essay Nos. 11-12 (pages 87-99)

December 1 **RESEARCH PAPER #2 DUE;**  
Essay Nos. 13-15 (pages 99-117)  
*skim* Essay No. 16 (pages 117-122)  
Essay No. 17 (pages 123-128)  
*skim* Essay Nos. 18-19 (pages 128-138)  
Essay No. 20 (pages 138-148, but *skim* 142-148)

## WEEK 15

December 6 Essay No. 22 (pages 156-164)  
Essay Nos. 24-25 (pages 174-188)  
*skim* Essay No. 27 (pages 194-201)  
Essay No. 33 (pages 234-240)  
Essay No. 38 (pages 266-272)  
*skim* Essay No. 40 (pages 278-282)

## WEEK 15

December 8 Essay Nos. 42-43 (pages 288-293)  
*skim* Essay No. 59 (pages 405-413)

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Essay No. 60 (pages 413-420)

Essay No. 61, especially first 8 ¶s (pages 420-426, *skim* 423-426)

Essay No. 62 (pages 426-435, but *skim* 433-435)

Essay No. 63 (pages 435-442, but *skim* 437-442)

Essay No. 68 first 3 ¶s (pages 483-484)

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**