

# **PHILOSOPHY 230**

## **INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY**

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Mondays 1:30 – 2:30, Thursdays 10:30 – 11:30, and by appointment

**Texts:** *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, Plato  
*Leviathan*, Thomas Hobbes  
*Second Treatise of Government*, John Locke

### **Topic Outline and Readings:**

#### **I. Introduction: Problems of Political Authority and Obligation**

Readings: Plato, iv-v, & 20-58

[Recommended: Plato, 1-19]

#### **II. The Nature and Justification of Political Authority and Obligation**

Readings: Hobbes, pp. 27-34, 74-146

Locke, all

#### **III. Applications:**

##### **A. Distributive Justice**

##### **1. Utilitarianism**

Readings: to be arranged

##### **2. Contractarianism**

Readings: to be arranged

##### **3. Libertarianism**

Readings: to be arranged

##### **B. Justice, Gender and the Family**

Readings: Okin, all

### **Course Requirements:**

There will be one midterm exam and a final exam. The final exam will be in the room in which the class meets on Tuesday, Dec 9, from 9:30 - 11:18 AM (the time scheduled by the University). It will focus on material presented since the midterm but will depend on a general knowledge of material in the first portion of the course as well. The final exam and the midterm will each constitute 35% of your grade. The date of the midterm exam is not yet set but it will probably be sometime in the fifth or early in the sixth week of the course and it will be announced repeatedly well in advance. The balance of your grade will be determined by a short (8-10 page) paper. This paper will be due during the last week of classes.

The paper is to be a critical analysis of one or more of the arguments presented in the class, assigned readings or appropriately related readings. Suggestions for paper topics will be handed out well in advance of due dates; however, you are invited to select topics not on that list provided you get the topic approved in advance

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University understands academic misconduct to include “any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process” (“Procedures of the Committee on Academic Misconduct,” <http://oaa.osu.edu/procedures/1.0.html>). With respect to this course, examples include (but are not limited to) such actions as cheating on exams and submitting a term paper written by another. No one should be unclear about whether *these* are wrong, but students are sometimes not clear about what constitutes plagiarism. ‘Plagiarism’ is defined by the University to be “the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrase of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas”. There should be no misunderstanding about word for word transcriptions or simple paraphrases—these *must* be acknowledged through proper citations. It is sometimes not clear, though, when simply using the ideas of another requires citation. This is especially true in the context of a course, in which one is, presumably acquiring fundamental ideas of a subject matter from the text or the instructor. Certain ideas are “in the public domain,” so to speak; they are ideas used by everyone working in the field, and do not require citation. Other ideas are such that their origin needs to be acknowledged. It is sometimes difficult for beginning students to distinguish these. It is helpful to remember that what is at issue is whether the failure to acknowledge a source would tend to misrepresent the idea as your own. The failure to acknowledge your source for a distinction between civil disobedience and rebellion, for example, would not tend to misrepresent the distinction as your own since it is a distinction that anyone working in the field will draw in some way or other. To offer a *specific* account of this distinction that is offered by another without citing the source could easily tend to misrepresent the account as your own. It is clearly better to err on the side of over-acknowledgment in cases in which one is in doubt.

I view academic misconduct of any sort as a *very* serious violation of University requirements. University rules provide for extremely serious sanctions for academic misconduct, and I will, as I am required to do, forward any cases of suspected misconduct to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

### **Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated. They should inform me as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>