

PSCI 225: Climate Change Justice

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| Class times: | Whenever you feel like it |
| Room: | Somewhere with a door, I hope |
| Instructor: | Dr. Christopher Bennett |
| Office hours: | By appointment |
| Office location: | Hagey Hall, Room 354 (but I'm not there, obviously) |
| Email: | christopher.bennett@uwaterloo.ca |

How does this course work?

Each week, you will have 3 things:

- (1) Readings;
- (2) Lecture notes;
- (3) A set of recordings, one for each every section of the lecture notes.

My goal: KEEP. IT. SIMPLE.

Two quick things

I hope this course will be fun and rewarding!

- 1) I love teaching this course because this is the material that I think is most worth thinking about. I hope you'll enjoy it too.
- 2) I absolutely and completely guarantee that, with a bit of work on your part, you will finish this course as a better writer, more confident in your critical and analytical skills, and assured that you can, in fact, develop your own perspective on an issue.

Course Description

What is justice? Why should I obey the state? What do I owe my fellow citizen? What is the good life?

In this course, we will discuss a range of classical answers to these (and similar) questions, beginning with Plato and finishing with St. Augustine. The texts discussed contain some of the earliest articulations of ideas that have become commonsensical features of Western political thought. This course will therefore help students understand where their political views come from, as well as improve the quality of their thoughts about politics.

While this course is about historical ideas, it is not a history course, but a course in normative political theory. We will take ideas as they come to us and scrutinize them to the best of our ability, treating them as substantive political and philosophical claims rather than as historical artefacts.

Intended Learning Outcomes

This course will help students learn to:

1. identify key historical thinkers and their main ideas;
2. engage with and evaluate political and philosophical claims;
3. develop rigorous and thoughtful moral claims about the political world.

Contact Policy

Please always email me from your Waterloo University account and indicate your reason for emailing in the subject line (e.g. Assignment #3; Feedback participation; etc.), along with the course code. Best practice in writing emails also includes a greeting and a signature. While I am less fussy about this than many, you will encounter professors, bosses, etc., who will absolutely

refuse to respond to emails that omit those. I recommend getting in the habit of writing emails in this way from the start.

~~To see me in person, it is best to come by during my office hours. I am also available to meet at other times by appointment.~~

Assessment

See assignment outline document and recording.

Submission of Assessments

All assignments must be submitted through the LEARN platform. Assignments submitted on LEARN will be graded and returned to students through the online platform. Failing to submit your assignment via LEARN by the deadline (see below for late penalties) will result in a failing grade.

Assignments must be submitted in either .doc or docx format. Documents submitted as PDFs or through other programs, such as Pages, will receive a 5% penalty and no in-text comments.

Late assignments will be penalized as follows: 5% for the first day and 2% per day after that. I will not accept assignments that are more than 10 days late. Weekends count as two days.

Examples:

- 1 day late: -5%
- 2 days late: -7%
- 7 days late: -17%
- 10 days late: -25%
- 11 days late: submission refused

Please do get in touch with me as early as possible if you are having any issues completing an assignment, ideally before the deadline. I am very happy to help every student meet the deadlines wherever possible. That said, I stick to the rules as a matter of fairness.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts' grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Turnitin

Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo> for more information.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you need to request special accommodation, please communicate with me as soon as possible to ensure the proper arrangements are made with little disruption.

Required Materials

All of the required readings are available online, either via the library or on LEARN.

Weekly Schedule

| Week | Topic | Readings |
|--------|--|---|
| Week 1 | Introduction | None—please listen to my recordings explaining how this course will work!!! |
| Week 2 | Pre-Socratic thought, the Sophists & the truth | Plato's <i>Republic</i> , Book I (40 standard pages) and Book II (12 standard pages) Plato, <i>Defence of Socrates</i> (onwards from 24b onwards) and all of <i>Crito</i> (40 standard pages total) Optional —Plato's <i>Republic</i> , 514a to 521b (9 standard pages) Optional —Book 6 (25 standard pages) |
| Week 3 | Plato: the set up for, and Book I and II of, <i>Republic</i> | |
| Week 4 | Plato: finishing <i>Republic</i> | |

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| Week 5 | Plato: <i>The Defence of Socrates, Crito</i>, and some critical analysis | |
| Week 6 | Aristotle: the set up and the start of <i>Ethics</i> | Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , book V 'Justice' (20 standard pages) Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , book X 'Pleasure, Happiness' (18 pages) Optional —Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , book I 'The Human Good' (22 pages) |
| Week 7 | Aristotle: finishing <i>Ethics</i> and tackling <i>Politics</i> | Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , the following books (42 standard pages total) Book II, chapter 5 Book III, chapters 2-5 Book VII, chapters 1-3 |
| Week 8 | Aristotle: <i>The Art of Rhetoric</i> and critical analysis | |
| Week 9 | Assignment week | Catch up or get ahead—I'm leaving this week blank to give you time to think about your final papers. |
| Week 10 | Epicurus, consequentialism, and hedonism | Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> and <i>Principle Doctrines</i> (6 ½ standard pages) |
| Week 11 | Stoicism | Epictetus, <i>The Handbook (Encheiridion)</i> (17 standard pages) |
| Week 12 | Conclusion | None! |

