

University of Waterloo
PSCI-324
Contemporary Political Philosophy
Fall 2012

Friday 9:30am-12:20pm, HH 1102

Instructor: Dr. Anna Drake
Email Address: amdrake@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: HH 317
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 and by appointment

This course examines central normative questions and core texts in contemporary liberal and democratic theory. How do different theorists understand what freedom and equality entail? What is the relationship between these concepts? We will examine different theories of justice (utilitarian, Rawlsian, libertarian, merit-based, global) and look at how these different interpretations influence our understandings of freedom and equality. We will also look at different ways of structuring society (democratic, republican, communitarian) and investigate their core values and challenges. Here we will pay particular attention to pluralism, toleration, and individualism. In addition to the normative analysis, concepts will be grounded in and further explored through an analysis of current issues and problems.

Grade distribution:

Discussion questions	20%
Final exam	30%
Introduction	10%
Essay	40%

Format

This is a lecture course that will also contain elements of class discussion. Students are expected to come to lectures having completed the assigned readings and ought to be prepared to engage with the issues.

Readings

All course materials are available as e-readings on reserve at the library.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussion Questions

Students should submit one discussion question and abstract per week for a total of 10 submissions. Questions must deal directly with (at least) one of the week's readings and should address significant themes, problems, etc. You must also include a brief abstract/overview of the article that your question speaks to. Abstracts should clearly state the context of the article, the author's main argument(s), and provide a brief overview of the structure. (We will look at an example of this in class; you can also look at abstracts at the beginning of journal articles if you are still unclear as to what is expected). Questions (and abstracts) will be graded for content and will be returned to you the following week.

Due: The BEGINNING of each class (late assignments will NOT be accepted for marks). Due to the time-sensitive nature of the assignment (class discussion) there will be NO exceptions to this. If you have to miss class you should email a copy to me BEFORE class starts and also submit a hard copy to the main office.

Essay

Students are required to write a 10-12 page (double-spaced; standard font and margins) essay. You are free to write on a question of your choice, but students MUST ground their paper in one (or more) of the course's readings and the essay MUST be sufficiently analytical. Papers will (in addition to content, organization, and style) be graded for engagement with the central issues of the course and of the texts, and for original thought.

Due: Thursday December 6th (in the PSCI dropbox)

Proposal:

You must submit a short (one page) essay proposal. In the proposal you should set out the problem that you plan to address, include a brief overview of how you plan to structure the paper, and identify your main sources. Proposals will not be graded for content, but you MUST hand one in and have it approved before you submit your introduction and final paper. Failure to do so may result in a paper grade of "0".

Due Monday October 29th (in the PSCI dropbox) *students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

Introduction:

Students must submit the introduction to their essay. This should be a polished piece of writing and should conform to the requirements (we will discuss this in class). In order to complete this assignment well you are advised to have written at least a draft of your essay.

Due: Monday November 19th (in the PSCI dropbox)*students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

Final Exam:

A 2 hour final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. The details of this will be discussed in class.

Late penalties:

The essay and introduction are subject to a 5% per day late penalty. This INCLUDES weekend days.

Policy on extensions:

Extensions will be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons only. Please speak with me as soon as a problem arises.

Extensions will not be granted for a heavy workload or for computer problems. It is strongly recommended that students use a program such as dropbox to continually back up their files.

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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>.

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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

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://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction (Friday September 14th)

No readings

Week 2: Liberty (Friday September 21st)

Isaiah Berlin. 1969. "Two Concepts of Liberty." In *Four Essays on Liberty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 118-172.

Jeremy Waldron. 2003. "Security and Liberty: The Image of Balance." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 11 (2): 191-210.

Week 3: Rights (Friday September 28th)

Jeremy Waldron. 1989. "Rights in Conflict." *Ethics* 99 (3): 503-519.

Judith Jarvis Thomson. 1971. "A Defense of Abortion." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 1(1): 47-66.

Week 4: Equality (Friday October 5th)

Ronald Dworkin. 2000. "Equality of Resources." *Sovereign Virtue*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 65-119.

Thomas Nagel. 1999. "Equality and Partiality." In *Social Ideals and Policies: Readings in Social and Political Philosophy*, Steven Luper, ed. Toronto: Mayfield Publishing Company. 351-361.

Week 5: Justice and Utilitarianism (Friday October 12th)

J.J.C. Smart. 1973. "An Outline of a System of Utilitarian Ethics." *Utilitarianism For and Against*, J.J.C. Smart and Bernard Williams. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 3-76.

Will Kymlicka. 2002. "Utilitarianism." *Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 10-52.

Week 6: Justice as Fairness (Friday October 19th)

John Rawls. 1978. "A Theory of Justice." In *Justice and Economic Distribution*, John Arthur and William H. Shaw, eds. Don Mills, ON: Longman Higher Education. 18-52.

Week 7: Libertarian Justice (Friday October 26th)

Robert Nozick. 1974. "Distributive Justice." *Anarchy, State and Utopia*. New York: Basic Books. 149-231.

Week 8: Justice, Desert, and Merit (Friday November 2nd)

David Miller. 1996. "Two Cheers for Meritocracy." *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 4 (4): 277-301.

Week 9: Toleration (Friday November 9th)

Anna E. Galeotti. 1993. "Citizenship and Equality: The Place for Toleration." *Political Theory* 21 (4): 585-602.

Thomas Scanlon. 2003. "The Difficulty of Tolerance." *The Difficulty of Tolerance: Essays in Political Philosophy*. Cambridge University Press. 187-201.

Week 10: Democracy and Pluralism (Friday November 16th)

Daniel M. Weinstein. 2001. "Saving Democracy From Deliberation." In *Canadian Political Philosophy*, Ronald Beiner and Wayne Norman, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 78-91.

Jonathan Quong. 2004. "Disputed Practices and Reasonable Pluralism." *Res Publica* 10 (1): 43-67.

Week 11: Communitarianism and Republicanism (Friday November 23rd)

Charles Taylor. 1985. "Atomism." *Philosophy and the Human Sciences*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 187-210.

Michael Sandel. 1992. "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self." *Communitarianism and Individualism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 12-28.

Philip Petit. 1999. "Republican Freedom and Contestatory Democratization." In *Democracy's Value*, Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordon, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 163-90.

Week 12: Global Justice and Human Rights (Friday November 30th)

Iris Marion Young. 2006. "Responsibility and Global Justice: The Social Connection Model." *Social Philosophy and Policy* 23 (1): 102-130.

Arash Abizadeh. 2008. "Democratic Theory and Border Coercion: No Right to Unilaterally Control Your Own Borders." *Political Theory* 36(1): 37-65.