



AMBROSE

PH 350 Political Philosophy (3)

Fall 2013

Time: Wednesday & Friday @ 11:15 – 12:30

Location: A2212

Instructor Information:

Ken Nickel (MAR, MSc, PhD ABD)

Associate Professor of Philosophy

410-2000 (ext. 6903)

Office: 2104

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Course Description

Students are exposed to the major historical figures and ideas relating to political legitimacy and social authority. The course examines, amongst other things, social contract theory, liberalism, libertarianism, socialism, communitarianism, and multiculturalism.

Course Objectives

1. Students should learn the classical political ideas of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Mill.
2. Students should become conversant with the contemporary views of prominent philosophers such as John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Charles Taylor, amongst others.
3. Students should be able to synthesize and analyze political philosophy in terms of developed understandings in metaphysics, epistemology, and moral philosophy.
4. Students should appreciate the influence that political philosophy bears upon ethics and philosophy of law.

Required Text

Cahn, Steven M. (Ed.). (2011). *Political Philosophy: Essential Texts* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Text

Vaughn, Lewis, & McIntosh, Jillian Scott. (2009). *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance and Participation** 15%
 - Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to attend each class session **with assigned text material and an engaged frame of mind**. Students should be prepared to contribute meaningful conversation to the topics under discussion. **Each absence from class merits 1 mark deduction** and class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses two classes and generally participates well in class he or she generally cannot achieve more than 13/15 for this portion of his or her grade. **Students in class without text material and otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent**. Students who regularly arrive late, depart early, or leave in the middle may be marked as absent. As a general rule **two late arrivals or early departures** will amount to one absence.
 - Students may enhance their participation grades by contributing to regular **Moodle discussion forums**.

2. **Paper # 1** 17.5%
 - Due: Wednesday, October 9th @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate handout regarding topics, submission and format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.

3. **Paper # 2** 27.5%
 - Due: Tuesday, December 10th @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate handout regarding topics, submission and format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.

4. **Final Exam** 40%
 - December 17th @ 1:00 PM
 - **Students must pass the final exam** to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
 - Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

Letter Grade	GPA	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3		82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
B-	2.7		72-74 %
C+	2.3		68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	≤ 49 %

Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission, withdraw from course and receive tuition refund, and change from credit to audit is September 15th @ 11:59 PM.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is October 28th.
- Last day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty is November 12th.

Important Notes

- Students are responsible to check their Ambrose e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.
- Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other **non-essential technology** is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is **strictly prohibited**.
- **Lap top computers are prohibited** from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis for students with relevant disabilities. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.
- Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time and to remain seated until the class session ends. Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates.
- **Important Notice Related to Writing Assignments:** All papers will be submitted to “Turnitin” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.

- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*
- *Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.*
- *Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension.” Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”*
- *Students are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus for their records.*

PH 350 COURSE OUTLINE¹
Fall 2013

Sep 4	Introduction
Sep 6	Plato
Sep 11	
Sep 13	
Sep 18	Aristotle
Sep 20	
Sep 25	Community Days – No Class
Sep 27	Augustine
Oct 2	Aquinas
Oct 4	
Oct 9	Machiavelli
Oct 11	
Oct 16	Hobbes
Oct 18	No Class
Oct 23	
Oct 25	Locke
Oct 30	
Nov 1	Rousseau
Nov 6	
Nov 8	Hegel
Nov 13	Marx & Engels
Nov 15	John Stuart Mill
Nov 20	
Nov 22	John Rawls
Nov 27	Robert Nozick
Nov 29	
Dec 4	Charles Taylor
Dec 6	

¹ This course outline is provisional and may, at the discretion of the instructor, require revision over the course of the term. The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the outline to accommodate timely issues or pressing pedagogical concerns.

Dec 17

Final Exam @ 1:00 PM