



AMBROSE

PH 350 Political Philosophy Winter 2011

Time: Tuesday & Thursday @ 8:15 – 9:30

Location: Room 1085-1

Instructor Information:

Kenneth M. 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.

Prerequisite: PH 125

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.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance and Participation** 10%
 - 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 an immediate .5% 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 9/10 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 miss no more than two lectures with demonstrably good reasons (e.g., athletic participation) will have their participation assessed on the basis of 10/10.
 - Students who arrive late to class or leave early may be marked as absent. As a general rule **two late arrivals or early departures** will amount to one absence.
2. **Paper # 1** 15%
 - February 18th @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.
3. **Seminar Presentation** 10%
4. **Paper # 2** 25%
 - Due: Monday, April 11th @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.
5. **Final Exam** 40%
 - Tuesday, April 19th @ 9:00 AM in 2210.
 - **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:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	4.0		90-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	85-89 %
A-	3.7		80-84 %
B+	3.3		77-79 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	73-76 %
B-	2.7		70-72 %
C+	2.3		67-69 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-66 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %

D+	1.3		55-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-54 %
F	0.0	Failure	49 < %

Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission and to withdraw from course and receive tuition refund is January 21st.
- Last day to withdraw from courses or change to audit without academic penalty is March 18th.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is April 4th.

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.
- *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
Winter 2011

Jan 13	Plato
Jan 18	Plato
Jan 20	Aristotle
Jan 25	Augustine
Jan 27	No Class
Feb 1	Aquinas
Feb 3	Machiavelli
Feb 8	Hobbes
Feb 10	Locke
Feb 15	Rousseau
Feb 17	Hume
Feb 23	Reading Week
Feb 25	Reading Week
Mar 1	Kant
Mar 3	Hegel
Mar 8	Marx & Engels
Mar 10	J.S. Mills
Mar 15	John Rawls
Mar 17	Robert Nozick
Mar 22	
Mar 24	
Mar 29	Adam Smith
Mar 31	Charles Taylor
Apr 5	Michel Foucault
Apr 7	Jurgen Habermas
Apr 12	Virginia Held
Apr 14	

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, amongst other things, timely issues or pressing concerns.