

# PHIL 508: Social and Political Theory

Fall 2014

Instructor: Tony Reeves

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 1:00 – 2:30; 4:30 – 5:00. Also available by appointment.

## Course Description

The course will consider some of the major topics, approaches, and thinkers in recent social and political philosophy. The course aims to both familiarize students with the current theoretical terrain of the disciplines and to prepare them for advanced work in philosophy. We will consider philosophical work regarding rights, justice, the common good, privacy, equality, liberty, authority, legitimacy, and democracy.

## Objectives

Students will:

- Be familiar with much of the central recent philosophical work in social and political philosophy
- Be able to explicate the basic concerns that have driven theorists to write on these topics
- Develop and be able to articulate cogent and defensible views on these topics
- Improve ability to write analytical papers
- Develop an ability to read and critically consider difficult texts
- Improve ability to reason through and intelligently talk about complex problems generally

## Readings

As a graduate seminar, there will be a focus on in-class discussion rather than lecture. Careful and reflective reading of the texts prior to our meetings, then, is essential.

The required texts for purchase are:

H.L.A. Hart, *Law, Liberty, and Morality* (Stanford, 1963)

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Basic Books, 1974)

Joseph Raz, *The Morality of Freedom* (Oxford, 1986)

G.A. Cohen, *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* (Cambridge, 1995)  
John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Harvard, 2001)  
G.A. Cohen, *Rescuing Justice & Equality* (Harvard, 2008)  
Anna Stilz, *Liberal Loyalty* (Princeton, 2011)  
Philip Pettit, *On the People's Terms* (Cambridge, 2012)

In addition to these texts, many of the readings will be available on Blackboard electronic reserves (marked “[ER]” on reading schedule).

## **Requirements**

Grade Breakdown:

Short Paper	25%
Long Paper	55%
Participation	20%

Participation: Regular and informed participation on the part of everyone is essential. A large part of your grade will be based on your contributions in seminar. The grade will be based on the frequency and quality of your verbal contributions to the class. Such contributions include informed responses to my questions, participation in classroom discussions, responding to your peers, and raising relevant and cogent questions. Familiarity with the readings is, again, crucial.

Short Paper: The short paper is a two-stage process. I will assign a paper topic. Stage One is writing the best 5 to 7 page first draft you are able – you will have two weeks. I will then provide you with feedback on your draft. Stage Two is revising to produce the best final draft you are able.

Long Paper: The long paper is a three-stage process. Stage One is writing a two to three page topic proposal. You should identify a central claim, the main literature you will be responding to and incorporating, and the overall argumentative strategy. This will be submitted to me, and we will schedule a time to discuss your topic outside of class.

Stage Two is writing the best 15 to 20 page draft you are able – you will have close to a few weeks. I will then provide you with feedback on your draft. Stage Three is revising the draft to produce the best final draft you are able.

## Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory. Each unexcused absence beyond one will result in a 1/3 letter grade reduction in the final grade.

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with harshly in accordance with SPEL policies. At minimum, the student would fail the course. See the SPEL Handbook for a description of official policy.

Papers Drafts: Drafts are to be submitted electronically, by email. When I receive a paper draft, I will confirm with an email.

## Schedule of Readings

The following plan is subject to revision – I will let you know of any changes as we go. Listed on the left are the dates of the meetings, on the right are the readings that will be discussed on those dates. Items marked [ER] are available on Blackboard.

Date	Reading
<b>Sep 2</b>	<b>First Meeting: Introduction and Rights I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jeremy Waldron, "Introduction to <i>Theories of Rights</i>," 1-20 [ER]</li><li>2. HLA Hart, "Are There Any Natural Rights?" <i>The Philosophical Review</i>, 64, 2 (1955), 175-191 [ER]</li><li>3. Joseph Raz, "On the Nature of Rights," in <i>The Morality of Freedom</i> (1986), 165-192</li></ol>
<b>Sep 9</b>	<b>Rights II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Joel Feinberg, "The Nature and Value of Rights," <i>The Journal of Value Inquiry</i>, 4 (1970) 243-251 [ER]</li><li>2. David Lyons, "Utility and Rights" in <i>Ethics, Economics and the Law: NOMOS XXIV</i> (1982), 107-138 [ER]</li><li>3. T.M. Scanlon, "Rights, Goals, and Fairness" <i>Erkenntnis</i> 11, 1 (1977), 81-95 [ER]</li><li>4. Judith Jarvis Thomson, "Claims, Privileges, and Powers," in <i>The Realm of Rights</i> (1990), 37-60 [ER]</li></ol>
<b>Sep 16</b>	<b>Liberty, Liberalism, Privacy</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. HLA Hart, <i>Law, Liberty, and Morality</i>, 1-52</li><li>2. Ronald Dworkin, "Is There a Right to Pornography?" <i>Oxford Journal of Legal Studies</i> 1, 2 (1981), 177-212 [ER]</li><li>3. Catharine MacKinnon, "Desire and Power" in <i>Feminism Unmodified: Discourses on Life and Law</i>, 46-62 [ER]</li><li>4. Chandran Kukathas, "Liberty" in <i>A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy</i>, 534-547 [ER]</li><li>5. Charles Taylor, "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?" in <i>Philosophy and the Human Sciences</i>, 175-194 [ER]</li></ol>

<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Liberty and Coercion, Rawls I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA Cohen, "The Structure of Proletarian Unfreedom" <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> 12, 1 (1983), 3-33 [ER]</li> <li>William Edmundson, "The 'Law is Coercive' Fallacy" in <i>Three Anarchical Fallacies</i> (1998), 73-112 [ER]</li> <li>John Rawls, "Outline of a Decision Procedure for Ethics" <i>Philosophical Review</i> 60, 2 (1951), 177-197 [ER]</li> <li>Rawls, "Social Unity and Primary Goods" (1982) in <i>Collected Papers</i>, 359-387 [ER]</li> </ol>
<b>Sep 30</b>	<b>Rawls II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rawls, <i>Justice as Fairness: A Restatement</i>, 1-134</li> <li>Susan Moller Okin, "Justice as Fairness: For Whom?" in <i>Justice, Gender, and the Family</i>, 89-109 [ER]</li> </ol> <b>Short Paper Topic Assigned</b>
<b>Oct 7</b>	<b>Rawls III</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rawls, <i>Justice as Fairness</i>, 135-202</li> <li>Carole Pateman, "The Fraternal Social Contract" in <i>The Disorder of Women</i>, 33-57 [ER]</li> <li>Charles Mills, "Race in Rawls/Rawls on Race" <i>The Southern Journal of Philosophy</i> 47, S1 (2009), 161-184 [ER]</li> </ol>
<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>Liberty, Entitlements, and Libertarianism</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robert Nozick, <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i>, 3-53, 88-119, 149-164, 167-231</li> </ol> <b>Short Paper Due</b>
<b>Oct 21</b>	<b>Socialism, Self-Ownership, Equality</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA Cohen, <i>Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality</i>, 1-91</li> <li>Cohen, <i>Rescuing Justice and Equality</i>, 1-23</li> </ol> <b>Short Paper Returned</b>
<b>Oct 28</b>	<b>Equality II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cohen, <i>Rescuing Justice and Equality</i>, 27-86, 116-180</li> </ol> <b>Revision Due</b>
<b>Nov 4</b>	<b>Equality III</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cohen, <i>Rescuing Justice and Equality</i>, 181-225</li> <li>Amartya Sen, "Equality of What?" in <i>Choice, Welfare and Measurement</i> (1982), 353-369 [ER]</li> <li>Martha Nussbaum, selections from <i>Creating Capabilities</i> (2011), 17-40, 69-93 [ER]</li> <li>Ronald Dworkin, "What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources" <i>Philosophy &amp; Public Affairs</i> 10,4 (1981), 283-334 [ER]</li> </ol>
<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>Authority, and Liberalism without Neutrality</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joseph Raz, <i>The Morality of Freedom</i>, 1-162</li> </ol> <b>Proposal Due – Schedule Meeting</b>
<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>Democracy and Authority I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carole Pateman, "Rousseau, Mill, and C.D.H. Cole: A Participatory Theory of Democracy" in <i>Participation and Democratic Theory</i>, 22-44 [ER]</li> <li>Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" in <i>Philosophy, Politics, Democracy</i> (2009), 16-37 [ER]</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Jeremy Waldron, "Legislation, Authority, and Voting" in <i>Law and Disagreement</i> (1999), 88-118 [ER]</li> <li>4. David Estlund, "Democratic Authority" in <i>Democratic Authority: A Philosophical Framework</i>, 1-20 [ER]</li> </ol>
<b>Nov 25</b>	<b>Democracy and Authority II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A John Simmons, "Philosophical Anarchism" in <i>Justification and Legitimacy</i> (2001), 102-121 [ER]</li> <li>2. Anna Stilz, <i>Liberal Loyalty</i>, 3-109</li> </ol>
<b>Dec 2</b>	<b>Disobedience, Autonomy, and Perfectionism</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. David Lyons, "Moral Judgment, Historical Reality, and Civil Disobedience" <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> 27, 1 (1998),</li> <li>2. Raz, <i>The Morality of Freedom</i>, 288-320, 369-429</li> <li>3. Jonathan Quong, "The Argument from Autonomy" in <i>Liberalism Without Perfection</i> (2011), 45-72 [ER]</li> </ol> <p><b>Long Paper Draft Due</b></p>
<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>Republicanism</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Phillip Pettit, <i>On the People's Terms</i>, 1-186</li> </ol>

**Final Paper Due December 16**