Date prepared: 8/15/2024

 Syllabus

The University of New Orleans

Dept. of Philosophy

**PHIL 2215: Social and Political Philosophy** (3 credits)

**SECTION 001**: LA 370, T/Th, 9:30 - 10:45 am

 **Instructor:** Sara Bizarro

**Contact**

**Information**

**Required**

**Texts**

**Course Description**

**Office:**  LA 170

**Office Hours:** MT 3-5 pm – [By appointment on Calendly](https://calendly.com/sbizarro/officehours?month=2024-08).

**Office / Mobile:** (504) 975-1373

**Email:** **sbizarro@uno.edu**(add '**PHIL 22001\_P001**' to the subject line)

Your primary sources are mostly in the public domain and will be all posted on Perusall to read and annotate. You will only need to pay a $5 fee on Perusall for this class.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION**: An introduction to theories and problems concerning the nature and justification, if any, of society, authority, and the state.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**: This course will provide a survey of several central topics in Social and Political Philosophy. We will discuss two main fundamental questions in this field: 1) Why do we have a state? 2) What sort of state is fair or just? Political and Social Philosophy is different from Ethics in that Ethics asks what the right thing is to do for each individual, while Social and Political Philosophy asks how we should live *together*, and what is a good social and political setting do live *well* together.

We will read classics in Political Philosophy, including texts by Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rosseau, and Rawls. We will address topics such as civil disobedience, property, and liberty. We will also address different political systems, such as communism, anarchism and classic liberalism. Finally, in the Social Philosophy front, we will discuss Foucault’s “panopticism”, we will address ratial justice with Bell Hooks and Cornel West, and we will talk about gender, with Simone de Beauvoir and Judith Buttler.

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

**Student**

**Learning O**

**utcomes**

* recognize social and political questions and theories.
* distinguish between the main different existing positions about the need for a state and what sorts of states there are.
* read primary and secondary political philosophy texts.
* explain what social and political philosophy theories are and how they can be applied to propose solutions to social problems.
* explain the difference between communism, anarchism and classical liberalism.
* describe different types of states and evaluate if each state is just or unjust and argue in detail for your position.
* formulate objections to your proposals and express them fairly and clearly.
* construct your both oral and written arguments with respect to the philosophical issues raised in this course using the primary sources.
* present your arguments in a clear and complete way both in writing and orally to the class in a final paper and presentation.

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| **Requirement**  |  | **Final grade**  |
| **Reading Annotations 30****Class Participation 20****Quizzes** **15** **Paper (Idea, Draft, Final) 25** **Oral Presentation 10** **Total** **100**  | **A** **B** **C** **D** **F**  | 100 – 90 89 – 80 79 – 70 69 – 60 59 – 0  |

Grades will be based on a 100 percent scale distributed as follows:

**READING ANNOTATIONS:** Students will be expected to keep up on the weekly reading assignments, to have read the material ***prior*** to the second class of each week, since this is the discussion class. Readings need to be annotated on Perusall.

**Course Requirements**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**: The grade for class participation consists of a combined analysis of both your attendance and your oral participation in class discussions. Attendance is taken in every class, on the second class of each week the readings are discussed in detail and there is ample time and opportunity to participate. Different strategies are used to encourage everyone to participate. There are always students who are more vocal and participate more, which is great, but all student views are important, so I would like to hear from everyone in class. For students who are less prone to participate, I would suggest you bring a note from the reading ready to share with the class, you can just read your note out loud if that is easier for you, this is not required, as some students participate regardless, but if you have trouble speaking in public, this is a possible strategy. In philosophy, there are different theories and there are disagreements. When proposing an ethical idea please be as clear and complete as possible regarding the reasons you hold for your views. When disagreeing with someone else’s idea, but as clear and complete as possible regarding the reasons you hold and where you agree and disagree. Discussion and opposing viewpoints and encouraged, in a respectful and reasons-based way always. No personal attacks or derogatory remarks are allowed.

**QUIZZES**: There will be 4 quizzes. Quizzes will be done online and are open-book. Students will have 5 days to do the quizzes once they open and will do it on their own computer or at a computer lab. The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure that students are following along with the class. Quizzes will have 10 questions (true/false, multiple choice, etc) and students will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes will need to be completed in one sitting.

**PAPER**: Your final paper will consist in you addressing a social or political philosophy topic using the readings addressed in class. Students will sign up for a topic and it’s reading at the beginning of the class, each reading will have one slot and each student will become the “expert” on that reading. The paper will have three stages, first the description of your reading is due with a statement of a problem you identify in the reading, this should be 1 page, 1.5 space, Times New Roman 12 point. Second a description of your research is due, 3 pages summarizing other scholarly sources you found on the topic. Finally, the final paper is due, you will put everything together, your topic, your problem, possible solutions to the problem and possible objections to these solutions. Students should incorporate any criticism in the first and second stage of the paper. The last stage will be submitted without feedback. The final grade of your paper considers all the stages and the final product as well. Both the process and the final product are valued in this system.

**PRESENTATION:** During our exam time each student will present their work on the final paper. Students with exceptional circumstances can send a recording of themselves presenting to share with the class with 50% off the presentation grade.

**ATTENDANCE**: Attendance of 50% or more of the classes is required to pass. If you don’t attend more than 50% of the class you will fail independently of other work you do. This class is highly interactive and I need you in the classroom to properly teach you.

**Course Policies**

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:**It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodation. For more information, please go to http://www.ods.uno.edu.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:** Both the Library and Learning Resource Center are available to assist all students regarding writing and research.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and to evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online:

http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/Policy%20Manual/judicial\_code\_pt2.htm

**AI USE:** Any and all AI use needs to be explicitly acknowledged and detailed in a note on your paper at the end. AI can be used to research and brainstorm, but it is NOT acceptable to submit anything written by AI, that is **you** need to write all your written submissions yourself, both in your reading annotations and in your final paper. Please note that Perusall warns me of any comment that is copy/pasted so you need to type or dictate directly on the program. Please check your work with Chat GPT Zero if you want to make sure your text is not showing up as AI-created. Anything that shows up as AI-created will need to be re-written and an oral presentation of the topic in my office will be required. You can check Chat GPT Zero here: <https://gptzero.me/>

**COMPUTERS/PHONES/IPADS:** You may use a computer or tablet with to take notes or access the readings. But you may NOT go online during class, you cannot check email, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, etc. Using your devices in this way is distracting both to you and your colleagues. Class time is to be used for learning and discussion only.

**INCOMPLETES**: Incompletes are STRONGLY discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well before the last class meeting.

 **WITHDRAWALS**: You may withdraw from this course for any reason.

Withdrawal is strictly up toyou, you do not need to explain it to me. Look in the course listings for the last day to withdraw without a penalty — a 'W' appearing on your transcript.

# Course Program – General

*Subject to revision*

*\*Please note that a complete program with detailed readings will be posted when classes start/*

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| **DAY**  | **TOPIC/READING/VIDEO**  |
| Week 1  | ***Meet and greet + Political Spectrum Test*****Plato, Part 1**Plato’s *Republic*, Part 1. Book 1 |
| Week 2  | **Plato, Part 2**Plato’s *Republic.* Book 2, Glaucon’s Argument. |
| Week 3  | **Aristotle, Part 1**Aristotle, *Politics,* Book 2, 1-4; Book 3, 7-8, 12; Book 4, 11. |
| Week 4 | **Aristotle, Part 2**Aristotle, *Politics,* Book 1. |
| Weeks 5 | **Hobbes**Leviathan, The Social Contract |
| Week 6 | **Locke**John Locke, *Essay Concerning the Origin and Extent of Civil Government* |
| Week 7 | **Rosseau**Rosseau, *The Social Contract* |
| Week 8 | **Mill and Liberty**Mill, *On Liberty**Berlin,* Two Concepts of Liberty |
|  Weeks 9 |  **Wollstonecraft**Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* |
| Weeks 10 | **Rawls**John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia* |
| Weeks 11 | **Panopticon**Bentham, *Panopticon*Foucault, *Panopticism* |
| Week 12 | **Marx**Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* Marx, *Capital,* Vol. 1, Part 1. Commodities and Money |
| Week 13 | **Beauvoir and Buttler**Beauvoir, *Second Sex*Buttler, “Beauvoir” |
| Week 14 | **hooks and West***Hooks, Ain’t I a Woman**West, Race Matters* |
| Week 15 | ***Student Presentations*** |
| Exam Week  | ***Student Presentations*** |