**COLLEGE OF THE ROCKIES**

# PHIL-201 – Social and Political Philosophy

## University Arts and Science

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2022
**Course Outline Review Date:** 2024-04-01

**Program Area:** Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

**Description:**

Social and Political Philosophy explores human beings living together in society. Themes include the philosophical foundations of political systems, concepts of justice and liberty, the role of the state and the individual, and, the question of historical law. Resources include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, and many more. Perspectives outside the Western Tradition, i.e. Eastern and Indigenous views, will also be explored.

**Program Information:**

This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

**Delivery Methods:** On-campus (Face-to-Face), Online

**Credit Type:** College of the Rockies Credits

**Credits:** 3

**Course type/s:** Humanities

**Instructional Activity and Hours:**

| Activity | Hours |
| --- | --- |
| Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction | 45 |
| Seminar/Tutorials | |
| Laboratory/Studio | |
| Practicum/Field Experience | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Co-op/Work Experience | |
| Other | |
| Total | 45 |

## Course Requisites:

- Completed at least 1 of the following:
  - PHIL101 – An Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry 1 (3)
  - PHIL102 – An Introduction to Philosophic Inquiry 2 (3)

**Flexible Assessment:** Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

## Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see https://www.bctransferguide.ca/ or https://transferalberta.alberta.ca . For more transfer credit information, please visit https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columba or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

## Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Alan Ebenstein. *Introduction to Political Thinkers.* 2nd edition: Thomson-Wadsworth. 2002. USA

*Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/ for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.*

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge in the origin and evolution of social and political thought in the Western Tradition;
- identify the historical context and philosophical assumptions and arguments behind defining periods and individual thinkers in social and political philosophy;
- critically analyze the relationship between nature and civilization throughout the history of social and political thought, including the degree civilization has improved the welfare of individuals and society;
- discuss the goals and challenges of social and political life, including the tension between individual values and freedoms and political obligation and collective welfare;
- outline the key concepts of justice, liberty, authority, duty, human rights, and community;
- compare and contrast various political systems, their origins, arguments, applications, and limitations;
- explore and analyze social and political perspectives outside the classical Western tradition, such as Indigenous views, the views of Confucius, and those of Buddhism and Ghandi;
- specify the relevance of social and political philosophy to the domestic and global challenges of the 21st century.

**Course Topics:**

- Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy
- Plato
- Aristotle
- The Hellenistic Age
- Augustine and St. Thomas
- Machiavelli
- Thomas Hobbes
- John Locke
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Karl Marx
- Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud
- Eastern and Indigenous Perspectives
- Conclusions

*See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

## Evaluation and Assessments

**Assessment Type: On-Campus (face-to-face) and Online, or Hybrid**

| Assessment Type | % of Total Grade |
|---|---|
| Essays | 40% |
| Midterm | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Total | 100% |

## Grade Scheme

| A+ | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| >=90 | 89-85 | 84-80 | 79-76 | 75-72 | 71-68 | 67-64 | 63-60 | 59-55 | 54-50 | <50 |

**Pass requirements:** None

**Evaluation Notes:** A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

**Evaluation Notes Comments:**

*Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.*

**Exam Attendance:**

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

**Academic Policies:**

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/ and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
- Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty

**Course Changes:**

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational,

employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.