

PHIL 4006A: Seminar in Modern Philosophy
Spinoza's Political Philosophy
Fall 2014
Department of Philosophy
Carleton University

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Course Description:

In this seminar, we will acquaint ourselves with Spinoza's political philosophy through the study of his two major works: the *Ethics* and the *Theological-Political Treatise (TTP)*. The *TTP* was widely condemned after its publication for the revolutionary positions it argued for on such issues as: freedom of thought, expression, and worship; the proper relation between secular and sacred authorities; the relation between right and power; the nature, origins, and rightful limits of State-power; the nature of God, miracles, providence, and salvation; the authorship and status of the Hebrew Bible; and so on. The *Ethics*, is, as one would assume from its title, primarily a work of ethics. And yet, as such, for reasons we will have to delve into, it has quite a bit to say on the kinds of issues listed above. It also, as such, systematically demonstrates many of the propositions and principles of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and moral psychology that are more or less taken for granted by the *TTP*. Thus, while our primary aim will be to understand Spinoza's political thought as it is expressed in the *TTP*, it will be useful, with this aim in mind, to engage in a preliminary reading of the *Ethics*.

Seminars: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Grades for this course will be based on:

- (1) class participation, worth 25% of the final grade;
- (2) one annotated bibliography with 10 entries, due on the last day of class, worth 25% of the final grade;
- (3) one 10 to 15 page paper, due on the last day of the December examination period, and worth 50% of the final grade.

Required Texts:

Spinoza's *Ethics* and *Theological-Political Treatise*.

Any edition of these works will do, although I would recommend avoiding all translations by R.H.M. Elwes.

Reading Schedule:

- (1) Sept. 9th *Ethics*, Part I
- (2) Sept. 16th *Ethics*, II
- (3) Sept. 23rd *Ethics*, III
- (4) Sept. 30th *Ethics*, IV
- (5) Oct. 7th *Ethics*, V
- (6) Oct. 14th *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*, Preface & Chapters 1-2
- (7) Oct. 21st *TTP*, Chs. 3-5
- (8) Nov. 4th *TTP*, Chs. 6-8
- (9) Nov. 11th *TTP*, Chs. 11-13
- (10) Nov. 18th *TTP*, Chs. 14-15
- (11) Nov. 25th *TTP*, Chs. 16-18
- (12) Dec. 2nd *TTP*, Chs. 19-20

Regulations Applying Specifically to PHIL 4006A:

General Course Requirements: To pass, students must regularly attend and actively participate in seminar meetings, and complete all the written assignments, all unless formally excused by the Instructor because of illness or some other legitimate reason. Failure to complete all the written assignments will result in the grade FND (Failed, No Deferral).

Attendance: Students are responsible for all material covered, announcements made, course documents distributed, and assignments returned, whether they are present in class or not.

Late Assignments: Assignments will be docked one grade-point (e.g., from a B+ to a B) for each day after their due-date. Late penalties on papers accompanied by a medical certificate or other proof of a legitimate reason for lateness will be adjusted accordingly.

Submission Guidelines: All written assignments for this course are to be uploaded to cuLearn in .pdf format.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam

requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735