

# Tentative Syllabus

## PHIL 3340: Topics in Contemporary Social-Political Philosophy (Fall 2022)

**Class time/location:** T/Th 2:35 - 3:55 in Southam Hall 515

**Instructor:** Matthew Scarfone ([matthew.scarfone@carleton.ca](mailto:matthew.scarfone@carleton.ca))

**Office hours/location:** T/W/Th 11:00 - 12:00 in 3A43 Paterson Hall

**Coursepage:** <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/146760>

### Course Description

The topic of our course is 'Political Legitimacy', broadly construed. Some of the questions we will look at are: When does a government have the right or justification to exercise power? When are the laws and policies it issues legitimate? Does political legitimacy depend on procedural features like voting? Does it depend on normative matters like the substantive values it realizes? Many theorists suggest that political legitimacy is derived from either the implicit or explicit consent of those who are governed, but others suggest that no government has ever been legitimate. Our course will explore these issues largely through contemporary works of political philosophy.

**Prerequisite:** a course in philosophy or second-year standing

**Preclusions:** PHIL 3300

### Outcomes

By the end of the course you should be able to (i) identify and reconstruct some basic philosophical arguments, (ii) plan and write a philosophical/argumentative essay of your own design, and (iii) identify, explain, and analyze some of the major issues surrounding political legitimacy.

### Texts

All of the class readings are available through the coursepage.

### Plagiarism

Don't. Plagiarism consists of "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own". This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized.

### Evaluation

#### *Overview*

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| ▪ Participation & Attendance | 20% of final grade                        |
| ▪ Midterm Prospectus         | 10% of final grade due <b>October 7</b>   |
| ▪ Midterm Essay              | 25% of final grade due <b>October 21</b>  |
| ▪ Final Prospectus           | 10% of final grade due <b>December 2</b>  |
| ▪ Final Essay                | 35% of final grade due <b>December 22</b> |

### *20% Participation and Attendance*

We will meet twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesdays will largely be devoted to lecture, and Thursdays will be partial lecture and partial discussion. As part of your participation you will email me discussion notes (roughly 250 words) by the Monday before class @ Noon. In these notes you should explain something from the reading that was either interesting, too vague, or that you disagreed with. I may call upon some of us to share or elaborate these submitted notes during class. Late submission of these discussion notes will not be accepted. In order to have productive discussions, you must submit discussion notes each week, so 10 times during the course. Missing submissions are docked 1/4 of the participation & attendance grade: 20% to 15% for 9/10 submissions, from 20% to 10% for 8/10 submissions, from 20% to 5% for 7/10 submissions, and from 20% to 5% for 6/10 submissions. I'll take attendance sporadically throughout the term. You have two free absences from class to use as you wish, after which you are docked the same 1/4 of the participation & attendance grade for each unexcused absence. If you intend to miss class you still need to submit discussion notes that week.

### *10% Midterm Prospectus*

There will not be any assigned essay topics in this course, so you can write on any topic from the course that interests you. To facilitate this, you'll submit a 1 page, single-spaced (approx. 350 words) plan of the Midterm Essay you want to write. Your essay can be on any aspect from the first half of the course, up until the Fall Break. Your Midterm Prospectus is due by **October 7 @ 11:59pm**

### *25% Midterm Essay*

Your Midterm Essay should follow the topic and structure of your (corrected, returned) Midterm Prospectus. Your essay should be 5 pages, double-spaced (approx. 1750 words). Your Midterm Essay is due by **October 21 @ 11:59pm**

### *10% Final Prospectus*

Submit another 1 page, single-spaced plan of the Final Essay you want to write. Your essay topic must combine something from the first half of the course (before the Fall break) and something from the second half of the course (after the Fall break). Your Final Prospectus is due by **December 2 @ 11:59pm**

### *3.5% Final Essay*

Your Final Essay should follow the topic and structure of your (corrected, returned) Final Prospectus. Your essay should be 8 pages, double-spaced (approx. 2800 words). Your Final Essay is due by **December 22 @ 11:59pm**

### **Late Policy**

1/3 alpha grade per 24 hours for the Argument Summaries and the Midterm Essay. No late submissions accepted for the Take-home Exam.

All the deadlines for your assignments are noted above, so you know them well in advance. But sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise that might prevent you from turning in work on time. To accommodate for this, you will have **five extension days** at your disposal for the entire course. You may use these extension days whenever and however you wish (except for on the weekly discussion notes). No explanation for using these extension days is needed. Simply submit your assignment with a note that mentions how many of your (remaining) extension days are being used. For example,

you can submit an assignment one day late and use one of your extension days; or you can submit an assignment five days late and use all five of your extension days; or you can submit two of your assignments two days late each and use four extension days; or you can refrain from using any extension days; and so on.

**NB:** If you are dealing with an extraordinary circumstance for which extension days would be insufficient (e.g. long-term illness, family crisis, etc.) please get in touch with me as soon as possible to make other arrangements.

### Technology

Phones should be put silenced and put away during class. Laptops and tablets should only be used for class-related purposes – please be considerate of the attention of those around you.

### Schedule

Dates	Topic	Readings	!!!
Sept 8	Background	none	
Sept 13 & 15		Aristotle <i>Politics</i> , Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> , and Rousseau <i>The Social Contract</i> (selections)	
Sept 20 & 22	Democracy	Kolodny “Rule Over None 1: What Justifies Democracy?”	
Oct 4 & 6		Christiano “The Authority of Democracy”	Prospectus due Oct 7
Oct 11 & 13		Nasstrom “The Legitimacy of the People”	
Oct 18 & 20	Authority	Ripstein “Authority and Coercion”	Midterm due Oct 21
Fall break			
Nov 1 & 3		Brennan <i>Against Democracy</i> (selection)	
Nov 8 & 10	Disobedience	Pasternak “Political Rioting: A Moral Assessment”	
Nov 15 & 17		Lai “Justifying Uncivil Disobedience”	
Nov 22 & 24	Anarchism	Wolff <i>In Defense of Anarchism</i> (selection)	
Nov 29 & Dec 1		Huemer <i>The Problem of Political Authority</i> (selection)	Prospectus due Dec 2
Dec 6 & 8	Wrap up		

*I will only make changes to the syllabus, including due dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. The changes will be announced as soon as possible so that you can adjust your schedule and expectations accordingly.*

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Politics (Fall/Winter 2022-23)

### **Assignments:**

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

### **Evaluation:**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

### **Deferrals for Final Exams:**

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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](mailto: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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 9	Classes begin.
Jan. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 20	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 29	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 7	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 12	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 13-14	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 15-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:  
[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)  
520-2110

Registrar's Office:  
[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)  
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:  
[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)  
520-7850

Writing Services:  
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>  
520-3822

MacOdrum Library  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>  
520-2735