

PHL 2020 Practical Philosophy: The Social Contract

Fall 2011 MW 4-5:30

Professor Vida Panitch

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Office hours: Tues 2:30-4

Course Description:

Social Contract Theory addresses itself to a key question of practical philosophy, namely, what is the source of the state's legitimacy. According to the theory, the legitimate authority of government must derive from the consent of the governed, where the form and content of this consent derives from the idea of contract or mutual agreement. Proponents of the theory have provided diverse and conflicting accounts of the nature of consent and the conditions under which it should be given, as well as diverse conceptions of what it means for a legitimate state to treat all those on whom it depends for its authority with an equal concern and respect. This course will track the development of social contract theory from the ancient period to the present, while exploring some of its moral and political limitations.

Course Assignments:

There will be 3 brief essay assignments for this course, as well as a final take-home exam. The three brief essays (2-3 pages in length and worth 20% each) will consist of exercises in which students will be asked to clearly reconstruct a key argument from course materials, as well as to raise a brief criticism of the argument. The final take home exam will be cumulative and will raise questions demanding that students explain, contrast and engage critically with the course materials.

Course Readings:

The course text is: *Social and Political Philosophy: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, ed. Andrea Veltman (Oxford, 2008). It is available for purchase or for rent from the Carleton Bookstore. All pagination in the schedule below refers to pages in the course text, not in the original volumes. There are also some additional readings available online, either linked from the syllabus below or from web ct. Please note that we will be reading only excerpts from the historical texts covered in the first part of the term; it is recommended, however, that you read the full texts, which can all be found online via a search at: www.constitution.org.

Part 1: The Social Contract Tradition

Week 1:

Sept 12: Introduction to the Course

Sept 14: Plato, *Crito*, pp 3-15

Week 2:

Sept 19: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp 79-89

Sept 21: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, pp 89-101

Week 3:

Sept 26: John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, pp 111-123

Sept 28: John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, pp 123-133

Week 4:

Oct 3: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, pp 149-163

Oct 5: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp 163-173

Week 5:

Oct 10 – Thanksgiving: No Class

Oct 12: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, pp 173-183

Week 6:

Oct 17: David Hume, *Of the Original Contract*, pp 187-196

Oct 19: Immanuel Kant, *Theory and Practice*, pt 2

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Users/sefd0/tx/tp2.htm>

Part 2: Contemporary Contractarianism and its Critics

Week 7:

Oct 24: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp 297-315

Oct 26: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp 297-315

Week 8:

Oct 31: John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp 297-315

Nov 2: Ronald Dworkin, "Equality of Resources", *Philosophy & Public Affairs* Vol. 10, No. 4 (Autumn, 1981), pp. 283-345 **sec I-III** (on web cit)

Week 9:

Nov 7: John Hospers, "What Libertarianism Is," pp 322-333

Nov 9: Thomas Nagel, "Libertarianism Without Foundations, *Yale Law Journal* 85 no. 1 (1975) (on web cit)

Week 10:

Nov 14: Susan Moller Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family*, pp 401-416

Nov 16: Charles Taylor, "Atomism," pp 431-444

Week 11:

Nov 21: Will Kymlicka, *Multicultural Citizenship*, pp. 465-484

Nov 23: Susan Moller Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women," pp. 417-427

Week 12:

Nov 28: Thomas Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice,"

<http://as.nyu.edu/docs/IO/1172/globaljustice.pdf> (cut and paste into your browser)

Nov 30: Peter Singer, "All Animals are Equal"

<http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-m/singer02.htm>

Week 13

Dec 5 – Take Home Exam Review and Discussion

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

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 me 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/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me 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/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 20	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 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
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735