

Course Outline
PHIL 5350 Section X
Seminar in Ethics or Moral Philosophy
John Stuart Mill's Moral and Political Philosophy

Department of Philosophy Academic year 2011-2012 WinterTerm

Time: Thursday 6:05-8:55 Room: PA 3A36

Professor: Wendy Donner, Professor of Philosophy

Office: Room 3A47 Paterson Hall Phone: 520-2600 ext. 3943

Email: wendy_donner@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-5:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar we will explore John Stuart Mill's moral and political philosophy, with emphasis on recent scholarship. We will begin by examining the elements of his utilitarian moral philosophy, including his theory of value and the structure of the Art of Life (Morality, Justice, Virtue and Aesthetics). We will then go on to consider other topics including liberty, democratic education, liberalism and democracy, liberal feminism and environmental philosophy. The goal throughout will be to examine Mill's major writings such as *Utilitarianism*, *On Liberty*, *Representative Government* and *The Subjection of Women* in the light of recent commentary and scholarship.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Note: all books are available at Haven Books on Sunnyside

(1) John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Essays*, edited by John Gray, Oxford University Press, (Oxford World's Classics), paperback edition.

(2) Wendy Donner and Richard Fumerton, *Mill*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, paperback edition.

(3) Nadia Urbinati and Alex Zakaras, editors, *J.S.Mill's Political Thought: A Bicentennial Reassessment*, Cambridge University Press, paperback edition.

NOTE: All 33 volumes of Mill's *Collected Works* can be found in the Carleton University library (B 1602). They can also be found and downloaded on the web at the Liberty Fund's Online Library of Liberty

(<http://oll.libertyfund.org/Home3/Author.php?recordID=0172>) .

TOPICS AND READINGS:

Note: RT= Required text, LR=on course reserve for this course, E=electronic resource

(1) Utilitarianism: Theory of Value

Quantitative and qualitative hedonism, virtue ethics.

Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism* in Gray, especially Chapter 2 (RT).

Wendy Donner, "Utilitarianism: Theory of Value" in Donner, 15-32 (RT).

David Brink, "Mill's Deliberative Utilitarianism". Original article in *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, (1992), 67-103 (E).

(2) Utilitarianism: The Art of Life, Morality and Virtue

The structure of Mill's moral theory, the Art of Life, morality, act and rule utilitarianism, rights, justice and utility, virtue ethics.

Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism* in Gray, especially Chapter 5 (RT).

David Lyons, "Mill's Theory of Morality", in Lyons, *Rights, Welfare, and Mill's Moral Theory*, 47-65, (LR, E). Original article in *Nous*, 10, 1976, 101-120 (E).

Alan Fuchs, "Mill's Theory of Morally Correct Action", in Henry West, ed., *The Blackwell Guide to Mill's Utilitarianism*, 139-158 (LR).

Wendy Donner, "Utilitarianism: Morality, Justice, and the Art of Life" in Donner, 33-55 (RT).

Note: It is *highly recommended* that students read Mill, "Of the Logic of Practice, or Art", Book VI, Ch. 12, of *A System of Logic*, Volume 8 of Mill's *Collected Works*, 943-52 (Volume 8 on LR and also available in electronic form from Liberty Fund Online Library).

Dale Miller and Ben Eggleston, "India House Utilitarianism: A First Look", *Southwest Philosophy Review* 23: 1, January 2007, 39-47.

(3) Liberty

The Liberty Principle, autonomy, individuality, freedom of expression

Reading: Mill, *On Liberty* in Gray (RT).

Nadia Urbinati, "The Many Heads of the Hydra: J. S. Mill on Despotism", in Urbinati and Zakaras 66-97 (RT).

Wendy Donner, "Liberty" in Donner, 56-75 (RT). Suggested: Wendy Donner, "Autonomy, Tradition, and the Enforcement of Morality" in *Mill's On Liberty: A Critical Guide*, ed. C.L. Ten, 138-64 (LR).

John Skorupski, *Why Read Mill Today?*, Ch. 1, "Free Thought", 1-13, Ch. 3, "Liberty", 39-64 (LR, E).

(4) Political Philosophy: Liberalism and Democracy

Liberalism and egalitarianism, representative government and democracy

Reading: *Considerations on Representative Government*, Ch. 3, 238-56, in Gray (RT).

Bruce Baum, "Millian Radical Democracy: Education for Freedom and Dilemmas of Liberal Equality". Original article in *Political Studies*: 2003 Vol. 51, 404-428 (E).

Wendy Donner, "Political Philosophy: Liberalism and Democracy" in Donner, 90-105 (RT).

Jonathan Riley, "Mill's Neo-Athenian Model of Liberal Democracy" in Urbinati and Zakaras, 221-249 (RT).

Alex Zakaras, "John Stuart Mill, Individuality, and Participatory Democracy", in Urbinati and Zakaras, 200-220 (RT).

(5) Sexual Equality and The Subjection of Women

The Subjection of Women and liberal feminism; sexual equality; liberty vs. power and despotism.

Reading: Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (selections) in Gray (RT).

Wendy Donner, "Sexual Equality and the Subjection of Women" in Donner, 106-124.

Maria Morales, "Rational Freedom in John Stuart Mill's Feminism", in Urbinati and Zakaras, 43-65 (RT).

Mary Lyndon Shanley, "Marital Slavery and Friendship: John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Women*" in Maria Morales, ed. *Mill's The Subjection of Women: Critical essays* 114-34 (LR) Original article in *Political Theory* 9 (1981) 229-47 (E).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND WEIGHTINGS

Note: All assignments are essay format

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 1. Class presentations: | 30% | Schedule to be arranged |
| 2. Research proposal | 10% | Due Thursday April 5 |
| 3. Take-home examination | 60% | Due Tuesday April 24 |

NOTES

1. Students will do two oral presentations and hand in two 1250 word papers.

2. The research proposal should be 1-2 pages, or 250-500 words. It should include a bibliography in addition to the 1-2 pages. The bibliography should include 5-10 sources.

I recommend that you set up a meeting to discuss your proposal with me. It is not required, but suggested.

3. The take-home exam should be 15-18 pages or 3800-4500 words.

Policies and Regulations

Due Dates for Term Assignments:

Extensions for term assignments will be granted only for documented medical reasons or personal emergencies. Students should consult with me if at all possible prior to the deadline if an extension is required. Assignments handed in late without an extension will be penalized. The penalty for late term assignments will be a deduction of 2 marks out of 100 for each working day past the due date, up to the Senate-defined deadline. Students are required to hand in all term work by the Senate-defined deadline. Beyond this Senate-defined deadline, only official deferrals petitioned through the Registrar's Office will be honored.

Students who are unable to complete a final paper because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five

working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline. Permission can be granted only if the request is fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documents.

Students must hand in term assignments directly to me or to the Philosophy Department locked essay box, located in the hallway of Paterson 3A. Students should not under any circumstances put term assignments under my door or in my mailbox. It is the policy of the Department of Philosophy that essays transmitted to the Department by FAX will not be accepted. I do not accept assignments submitted by email.

It is crucial that students retain a hard copy of all assignments submitted in every course.

Seminar Presentations:

Attendance at and performance of your seminar presentation is compulsory. Failure to do your presentation will normally result in no mark for that presentation and F for the course. If an absence from your presentation is justified to me by a letter from a medical doctor, or lawyer, or another acceptable written excuse and if I am contacted regarding the absence prior to or as soon as possible after the absence, you will not be penalized. In such circumstances I will reschedule the presentation or, at my discretion, assign a make-up assignment.

Incomplete Term Work:

The calendar states that incomplete term work or unacceptably low standing will result in a grade of F.

Numerical Equivalents of Letter Grades:

In accordance with the Carleton University Calendar, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

ABS = Student absent from final exam

DEF = Final grade Deferred for documented personal or medical conditions

FND = Failure with no deferred final examination allowed.

Academic Integrity and Academic Offences, especially Plagiarism:

Students are expected to read and abide by the policies stated in the calendar. University regulations stipulate that allegations of plagiarism, cheating or any violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. Each case must be reported to the Dean, who investigates each allegation. If there is no resolution following this investigation at the Dean's level, a tribunal will be appointed by the Senate to review the case and make a final decision.

Note on Plagiarism:

Webster's Dictionary defines plagiarism as stealing.

Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others' as one's own without adequately acknowledging the original source.

Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying from a book, article or another student, downloading material or ideas from the internet, or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.

Academic Freedom

Students enrolling this course are advised that studying literature, culture and ideas, including those of societies other than their own, will expose them to unfamiliar and sometimes provocative attitudes, images, language and values. All participants in the course must be willing to examine the relevant texts, must make a sincere effort to understand the presuppositions of others, and be willing to discuss, verbally and in writing, the objects of study. By enrolling in this course, students accept a commitment to academic freedom for all participants, themselves, and the professor.

Other:

Students are required to comply with the policies of the university as stated in the calendar. Note especially the sections on Academic Standing, Instructional Offences, Offences of Conduct and the Academic Year.

Academic Accommodation Policy for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre:

Students with special needs/disabilities will be given accommodations according to their needs and abilities. It is recommended that these individuals contact the course director. These students are required to register with the Paul Menton Centre in order to obtain a Letter of Accommodation for alternative arrangements.

Please make an appointment to meet with a Centre staff person to discuss your needs. Completed forms must be submitted to the Center for formally scheduled exam accommodations.

Student Academic Support Services

Students should note the following academic support services, which you are encouraged to use: Writing Tutorial Service; Student Academic Success Centre (SASC, 302 Tory); and the Learning Commons (4th Floor, Library).

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/acadre/suniv14.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