

POLS 201 Introduction to Political Philosophy

Item # 5354, Fall 2017, MTWTh 11:30am-12:20pm

Syllabus subject to change.

Instructor: Andrew C. Fletcher

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Office location: A200F

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30, and by appointment

Classroom: L221

Course Description

Explores the philosophical foundations of politics and political activity. Organized around key political and philosophical concepts, such as authority, citizenship, equality, justice, liberty, power, rights, and sustainability. Same as PHIL 201. Either POLS 201 or PHIL 201 may be taken for credit, not both.

Course Outcomes

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Articulate conceptions of citizenship and the potential tensions between these and self-interest.
- Summarize key concepts in political philosophy.
- Distinguish competing conceptions of liberty, equality and the good life in various theories of justice.
- Formulate and evaluate normative theories of justice in political philosophy.
- Apply theories of justice to specific policy issues.
- Analyze issues of sustainability including the free rider problem and the tragedy of the commons and how these bear on theories of justice.

Grading

Final grades in the course will be calculated as follows:

Weekly writing assignments:	40%
Term paper I:	20%
Term paper II:	20%
Attendance/Participation:	20%

Weekly writing assignments should be double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and ***at least 500 words (with a word count in the header of your submission)***. Take time to carefully consider your responses and be sure to proofread each submission.

Choose at least one of the readings from the week that interested you most and write a response due each Friday at Noon on the VeriCite link on the Canvas course page.

Writing assignments should address at least the following two points:

- 1.) Explain your understanding of what the general idea/message of the reading is. Cite specific examples from the text. Do not merely summarize, but rather tease out what the author's key concerns are and how he/she seeks to address and resolve them.
- 2.) Reflect on the day's reading: What value does the reading have for us today? Explain how it relates to a contemporary problem. How would you amend the reading to better fit with your personal philosophy or politics?

Once you have addressed these two points, include any questions that occurred to you as you read and note areas where you had trouble understanding the author's argument.

Each writing assignment must be submitted to the VeriCite links on the course Canvas page.

Over the course of the semester, students are allowed to miss **TWO assignment submissions without penalty to their weekly writing assignment grade**. Every subsequent missed submission will result in an **10 point penalty** against your total writing assignment grade. For example, 3 missed assignments would amount to a 90; 4 would amount to an 80, and so on.

Term paper assignments will be issued approximately one week before their due date.

The College Grading Policy is explained in the current Course Catalog and can also be found at this link: [Grading Policy](#)

Attendance and Participation Policy

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class. **Students are allowed to miss 4 class meetings before incurring a penalty to their grade.** Each subsequent absence will result in a loss of 15 points out of the possible 100 points designated for attendance and participation.

Students should come to class having completed the reading assignment for the day and be prepared to engage in an in-depth discussion of the reading material.

Make-Up Assignments

Make-up assignments will only be given in the case of documented medical and family emergencies or university-sponsored trips/activities. Documentation must be present in order to receive an extension on an assignment.

Books and Materials Required

Plato: The Republic [Paperback]

by [Plato](#) (Author), [G. M. A. Grube](#) (Author), [C. D. C. Reeve](#) (Author)

Publisher: Hackett Pub Co; 2nd edition (November 1, 1992)

ISBN-10: 0872201368

ISBN-13: 978-0872201361

Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo

Plato (Author), [John M. Cooper](#) (Editor), [G. M. A. Grube](#) (Translator)

Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.; 2 edition (October 1, 2002)

ISBN-10: 0872206335

ISBN-13: 978-0872206335

Leviathan: With Selected Variants from the Latin Edition of 1668 [Paperback]

[Thomas Hobbes](#) (Author), [Edwin Curley](#) (Editor)

Publisher: Hackett Pub Co (March 1, 1994)

ISBN-10: 0872201775

ISBN-13: 978-0872201774

The Basic Political Writings [Paperback]

[Jean-Jacques Rousseau](#) (Author), [Donald A. Cress](#) (Editor, Translator), [Peter Gray](#) (Introduction)

Publisher: Hackett Publishing; 1st edition (November 1, 1987)

ISBN-10: 0872200477

ISBN-13: 978-0872200470

On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo [Paperback] [Paperback]

[Friedrich Nietzsche \(Author\) Walter Kaufmann \(Editor\)](#) (Author)

Publisher: Vintage (December 17, 1989)

ISBN-10: 0679724621

ISBN-13: 978-0679724629

Help with Canvas

Students can find help with Canvas by following the link here: [Student Canvas Help](#)

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

NOTE: in accordance with FERPA guidelines, as your instructor, I am required to inform you that there are two different course sections merged into one class meeting section and one Canvas online section.

Instructor's Expectations and Classroom Decorum

Please, no laptops, tablets, or cell phones during class discussion. Class is more interesting and fruitful when students come to class prepared to discuss course topics and when there are as few distractions as possible. Of course, exceptions can and will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Disruptive behaviors, including excessive talking, arriving late to class, sleeping, reading newspapers, using unauthorized electronic devices during class are not permitted. Repetitive and/or seriously disruptive behavior, e.g., fighting, using degrading language, personal or physical threats or insults, damaging property, may result in **docking points from the attendance/participation grade and/or your removal from class** in accordance with policies and procedures outlined in Bellevue College's Code of Student Conduct and in consultation with the Political Science department chair, The Office of Student Conduct, the Dean of Students, and the Office of Student Affairs.

Be respectful and attentive, and it will be a great class!

Accessibility

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning

styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

[Affirmation of Inclusion](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/inclusion/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/inclusion/>)

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments because of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

[Policy 2950 Accommodations for Reasons of Faith or Conscience](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-2950p-2/)

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College Anti-Discrimination Statement

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; creed; color; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates. Bellevue College is prohibited from discriminating in such a manner by college policy and by state and federal law. All college personnel and persons, vendors, and organizations with whom the college does business are required to comply with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations designed to promote affirmative action and equal opportunity.

[Equal Opportunity](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/equal/>)

[Spanish and Chinese versions of the anti-discrimination statement are available at [Important Links](#) should you wish to link to them or include them in your syllabus.]

Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. dating violence, domestic violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2641 and more information can be found at [Title IX](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/) (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/>).

If you have any concerns, you may report to: [Report Concerns](https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/) (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns/>).

Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at: [Student Code](#)

I take academic honesty and originality of intellectual work very seriously. In the case of written assignments and essays, we will be utilizing the [VeriCite](#) plagiarism checking and academic integrity service. Penalties for plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty range from receiving a zero for the assignment to more formal and severe penalties through the Office of Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

Important Links

[See "Important Links" page online](#) for more information about BC E-mail, access to MyBC, the Disability Resource Center (DRC), Public Safety, the Academic Calendar, the Academic Success Center, and more.

Weekly writing assignment grads and essay grades will be posted on your Canvas course page. Links to the course syllabus, periodic additional course materials (readings, links, videos, etc.), and course announcements can also be found on the Canvas course page.

Final Exam Schedule

The final essay will be due by **NOON Tuesday 12/5 on the VeriCite link on the course Canvas page.**

[Final Exam Schedule](#)

Course Calendar

Wk 1

9/18	Syllabus and Course Introduction
9/19	Plato— <i>Five Dialogues</i> : Introduction and <i>Euthyphro</i>
9/20	Plato— <i>Apology</i>
9/21	Plato— <i>Crito</i>

Week 2:

9/25	Plato— <i>Phaedo</i>
9/26	Plato— <i>Republic</i> : Intro, Bk I, (skim Bk II)
9/27	Plato— <i>Republic</i> : Bk III (skim Bk IV)
9/28	Plato— <i>Republic</i> : Bk V (skim Bk VI)

Week 3:

10/2	Plato— <i>Republic</i> : Bk VII
10/3	Plato— <i>Republic</i> : Bk VIII and Bk VIII
10/4	Hobbes— <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch X-XII
10/5	Hobbes— <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch XIII-XVI

Week 4:

10/9	Hobbes— <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch XVII-XX
10/10	Hobbes— <i>Leviathan</i> : Ch XXI, XXIV, A Review and Conclusion
10/11	Rousseau— <i>Disc. on the Origin of Inequality</i> : Letter to the Republic of Geneva, and Part One
10/12	Rousseau— <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequal</i> : Part Two
<u>Week 5:</u>	
10/16	NO CLASS MEETING
10/17	Rousseau— <i>On the Social Contract</i> : Bk One and Bk Two
10/18	Rousseau— <i>On the Social Contract</i> : Bk Three
10/19	Rousseau— <i>On the Social Contract</i> : Bk Four
<u>Week 6:</u>	
10/23	Marx and Engels— <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> : Lives of Marx and Engels, and Introduction
10/24	<i>The Marx-Engels Reader: The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> (pgs 66-101), and <i>Theses on Feuerbach</i>
10/25	<i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> : Wage Labour and Capital
10/26	<i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> : Manifesto of the Communist Party
<u>Week 7:</u>	
10/30	Nietzsche: <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>
10/31	Nietzsche: <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>
11/1	Nietzsche: <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>
11/2	Nietzsche: <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>
<u>Week 8:</u>	
11/6	Davis: <i>Women, Race, and Class</i> (TBA)
11/7	Davis: <i>Women, Race, and Class</i> (TBA)
11/8	Davis: <i>Women, Race, and Class</i> (TBA)
11/9	Davis: <i>Women, Race, and Class</i> (TBA)
<u>Week 9:</u>	

11/13	Lorde: <i>Sister Outsider</i> (TBA)
11/14	Lorde: <i>Sister Outsider</i> (TBA)
11/15	Lorde: <i>Sister Outsider</i> (TBA)
11/16	Lorde: <i>Sister Outsider</i> (TBA)

Week 10:

11/20	<i>The James Baldwin Reader</i> (TBA)
11/21	<i>The James Baldwin Reader</i> (TBA)
11/22	<i>The James Baldwin Reader</i> (TBA)
11/23	HOLIDAY—NO CLASS MEETING

Week 11:

11/27	Mills— <i>The Racial Contract</i>
11/28	Mills: <i>The Racial Contract</i>
11/29	Mills: <i>The Racial Contract</i>
11/30	Mills: <i>The Racial Contract</i>

FINAL ESSAY DUE NOON Tuesday 12/5 on the VeriCite link on the course Canvas page.