

PHIL 182-004 | Spring 2023 | Loyola University Chicago

## Social and Political Philosophy

Class times: MWF 1:40–2:30 PM  
Classroom: Mundelein 519

Instructor: Italo Alves | [ialves@luc.edu](mailto:ialves@luc.edu)  
Office: Crown 334H | [Book an appointment](#)

### Essential Course Information

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#### Course Description

This course will provide an introductory exploration of the field of social and political philosophy, which grapples with questions about the nature of society, power, justice, and the state. It will offer a critical examination of the foundations of social and political theories, as well as the values that guide them, and it is designed for students with an interest in understanding the underlying foundations of modern political systems and the ways in which these foundations shape our contemporary world. The course will be divided into two main parts. The first part (weeks 1–7) will focus on modern political philosophy, which revolves around questions involving the justification of the state, the concept of natural rights, the role of private property, and various forms of government. We will examine the social contract theory of the state and the early socialist and anarchist critiques of this theory. The second part of the course (weeks 9–15) will delve into contemporary issues in social and political philosophy, building upon the critical approaches opened up by the socialist critics and expanding them to include issues such as class, gender, sexuality, race, coloniality, and ecology. We will examine the ways in which these issues intersect and shape our understanding of social and political dynamics. Students will be encouraged to engage in critical thinking and analysis, and to apply the ideas and theories discussed in class to contemporary situations. This course has no prerequisites.

#### Learning Outcomes

The course aims to deepen students' understanding of complex social and political questions, which will require exposure to reasoning and analytic skills through discussion and argumentation. By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate a strong understanding of the key questions and various approaches in modern and contemporary social and political philosophy.

#### Technology and Course Materials

**Perusall.** There is no need to purchase any books or texts for this course. Readings will be made available through Perusall, an external website that allows students to read and annotate texts collaboratively. In order to access the readings, create an account on <https://perusall.com>, select “Enroll in a Course” at the top, and enter the following course code: XXXXXXXXXX.

**Sakai.** The syllabus and many other relevant materials for this course, as well as important communications, will be posted on Sakai. Students are strongly encouraged to check Sakai weekly for any additional materials and to keep up with all course information.

## Assignments and Grading

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### Grade Scale (% = points)

|            |            |            |            |         |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------|
| A: 93–100% | B+ 87–89%  | C+: 77–79% | D+: 67–69% | F: <59% |
| A–: 90–92% | B: 83–86%  | C: 73–76%  | D: 63–66%  |         |
|            | B–: 80–82% | C–: 70–72% | D–: 60–62% |         |

### Grade Components

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Participation .....       | 10%             |
| Perusall Annotations..... | 20%             |
| Expert of the Day.....    | 20%             |
| Quizzes.....              | 20%             |
| Midterm and Final .....   | 20% each (=40%) |
| <b>TOTAL .....</b>        | <b>110%</b>     |

As you can see, the sum of the grade components amounts to 110% of the grade, or 110 points. This means that there are multiple ways to earn points. For example, if you don't get a satisfactory grade on one assignment, you can make up for it on another assignment and still earn a high final grade.

### Participation (10 points max.)

Participation is an important component of this course. You can participate in different ways. The most important of these are attending class and engaging in discussions, which requires that you read the assigned texts and come to class ready to talk about your thoughts and questions.

### Perusall Annotations (1 point per reading, 20 points max.)

Post at least 3 high-quality annotations for each reading assignment on [Perusall](#). Comments should refer directly to the text. Students can highlight a passage and add a comment or reply to an existing thread, and they can also mention a classmate in their comment using an “@” symbol. High-quality annotations should engage with the readings, stimulate discussion, offer informative comments or questions, or address the questions or confusions of others. A non-exhaustive list of examples of high-quality annotations can be found on [Sakai](#). Students who fail to post at least 3 high-quality annotations will not receive points for the reading. The deadline for each reading assignment can be found in the Course Schedule below. Late submissions will be accepted but will have points deducted.

### Expert of the Day (10 points per presentation, 20 points max.)

Students will sign up in advance and come to class prepared to (1) recall the key points of discussion and main takeaways from the last class, (2) talk about the day's reading for 3–5 minutes, and (3) facilitate discussion. Students can serve as experts twice, once before spring break and once after.

### Quizzes (5 points each, 20 points max.)

We will have in-class and online quizzes throughout the semester that will make up 20% of your final grade (5% each).

**Midterm and Final Exam (20 points each, 40 points max.)**

We will have one midterm and one final exam in this course. The midterm will cover the first half of the course content. The final exam will cover all the course content.

**Course Policies**

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**Academic Integrity**

Loyola University Chicago takes seriously the issues of plagiarism and academic integrity. Students are expected to read through [Loyola's full statement on Academic Integrity](#) and familiarize themselves with the policies. The university prohibits plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, and facilitation of academic misconduct. Penalties may range from a grade of "F" to expulsion from the university.

**Class Conduct**

Our classes will be devoted to discussing potentially controversial ideas. This classroom is a safe space for students identifying as LGBTQ+, and insensitive remarks directed at students because of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or appearance will not be tolerated.

**Intellectual Property**

All lectures, notes, PowerPoints, and other instructional materials in this course are the intellectual property of the instructor. As a result, they may not be distributed or shared in any manner, either on paper or virtually without the instructor's permission. Lectures may not be recorded without the instructor's consent; when consent is given, those recordings may be used for review only and may not be distributed. Recognizing that your work, too, is your intellectual property, the instructor will not share or distribute your work in any form without your permission.

**Accommodations**

Loyola University Chicago provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with the Student Accessibility Center (SAC). Students are encouraged to meet with their professor individually in order to discuss their accommodations. All information will remain confidential. Please note that in this class, software may be used to audio record class lectures in order to provide equitable access to students with disabilities. Students approved for this accommodation use recordings for their personal study only and recordings may not be shared with other people or used in any way against the faculty member, other lecturers, or students whose classroom comments are recorded as part of the class activity. Recordings are deleted at the end of the semester. For more information about registering with SAC or questions about accommodations, please contact SAC at 773-508-3700 or [SAC@luc.edu](mailto:SAC@luc.edu).

## Course Schedule

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### Week 1 • Introduction

Jan 16: Martin Luther King Day. No class.

Jan 18: Introduction. No reading required.

Jan 20: Strauss, *What is Political Philosophy?* (pp. 343–355)

Due on Jan 22 at 11:59 PM:

— Create an account and join the course site on [Perusall](#). Course code XXXXXXXXXX.

### Week 2 • State and the Social Contract

Jan 23: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 13 and 14, §1–5 (pp. 82–87)

Jan 25: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapters 17, §13–15, and 18 (pp. 114–122)

Jan 27: Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, chapters 2, §4–8, and 3 (pp. 4–6, 10–13)

### Week 3 • Contract and Democracy

Jan 30: Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, chapter 5, §25–34 (pp. 14–18)

Feb 1: Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, excerpt (pp. 1–11)

Feb 3: Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I, chapters 6 and 8, Book II, chapter 3, Book IV, chapter 2 (pp. 54–56, 59–60, 66–67, 136–139)

### Week 4 • Liberty and Freedom

Feb 6: Mill, *On Liberty*, excerpt from chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1–11)

Feb 8: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapter 4 (pp. 73–90)

Feb 10: No additional reading. [Quiz #1](#).

### Week 5 • Property and Domination

Feb 13: Proudhon, *What is Property?*, excerpts (pp. 65–72)

Feb 15: Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, chapter I (pp. 473–483)

Feb 17: Marx & Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, chapter II (pp. 483–491)

### Week 6 • Distributive Justice

Feb 20: No additional reading.

Feb 22: Marx, *Critique of the Gotha Program*, excerpt (pp. 528–532)

Feb 24: Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, Chapter 1, §3 (pp. 10–15)

### Week 7 • Exploitation and Distributive Justice (contd.), Recap

Feb 27: Nozick, *Anarchy, State, Utopia*, chapter 7, section I, excerpts (pp. 149–175)

Mar 1: Recap. No additional reading. [Quiz #2](#).

Mar 3: [Midterm exam](#).

### Week 8 • Spring Break

Mar 6–10: No classes

### **Week 9 • Authority and Repression**

Mar 13: Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Chapter V (pp. 64–74)

Mar 15: Adorno, *The Authoritarian Personality*, Chapter 1, Introduction (pp. 1–11)

Mar 17: No additional reading

### **Week 10 • Biopolitics and Necropolitics**

Mar 20: Foucault, *History of Sexuality* (p. 135–145)

Mar 22: Foucault, *Society Must Be Defended* (p. 254–263)

Mar 24: Class canceled. Quiz #3 due on Sakai.

### **Week 11 • Race and Coloniality**

Mar 27: Mills, *The Racial Contract* (pp. 120–133)

Mar 29: Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (p. 1–13)

Mar 31: No additional reading

### **Week 12 • Sex and Gender**

Apr 3: Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction (pp. 13–28)

Apr 5: Pateman, *The Sexual Contract*, chapter 1 (pp. 1–18)

Apr 7: Easter Break. No class.

### **Week 13 • Neoliberalism**

Apr 10: Easter Break. No class.

Apr 12: Fraser, *Behind Marx's Hidden Abode*

Apr 14: Brown, *Undoing the Demos*, chapter 1, excerpts (pp. 17–21, 28–35)

### **Week 14 • Climate and Ecological Thought**

Apr 17: Oksala, *Feminism, Capitalism, and Ecology*

Apr 19: Krenak, *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World*, excerpt (pp. 13–21)

Apr 21: No additional reading. Quiz #4.

### **Week 15 • Post-Capitalist Transition**

Apr 24: Frase, *Four Futures*

Apr 26: Recap. No additional reading.

Apr 28: Recap. No additional reading.

Final: Take-home exam due on Sakai on May 4 at 11:59 PM

## Bibliography

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*Note that it is not necessary to buy any book for this course. Readings will be made available.*

- Beauvoir, Simone de. *The Second Sex*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.
- Brown, Wendy. *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution*. New York: Zone Books, 2015.
- Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Translated by Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2004.
- Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality - Volume 1: An Introduction*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.
- Frase, Peter. "Four Futures." *Jacobin*, December 13, 2011. <https://jacobin.com/2011/12/four-futures/>.
- Fraser, Nancy. "Behind Marx's Hidden Abode." *New Left Review*, no. 86 (April 1, 2014): 55–72.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Edited by Samuel Moyn. First edition. A Norton Critical Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2022.
- Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Edited by J. C. A. Gaskin. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Krenak, Ailton. *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World*. Translated by Anthony Doyle. Toronto: Anansi International, 2020.
- Locke, John. *Second Treatise of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration*. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Edited by Robert C. Tucker. 2d ed. New York: Norton, 1978.
- Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty, Utilitarianism, and Other Essays*. New edition. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Mills, Charles W. *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Univ. Press, 2011.
- Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. New York: Basic Books, 1974.
- Oksala, Johanna. "Feminism, Capitalism, and Ecology." *Hypatia* 33, no. 2 (2018): 216–34. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hypa.12395>.
- Pateman, Carole. *The Sexual Contract*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988.
- Rawls, John. *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2001.
- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *Discourse on Political Economy and The Social Contract*. Translated by Christopher Betts. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- . "Discourse On the Origin of Inequality." Marxists.org. Accessed January 6, 2023. <https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/rousseau/inequality/index.htm>.
- Strauss, Leo. "What Is Political Philosophy?" *The Journal of Politics* 19, no. 3 (1957): 343–68. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2126765>.
- Woodcock, George, ed. *The Anarchist Reader*. Glasgow: Fontana, 1977.