



## Social & Political Philosophy – PHIL 201

### University Studies Program

### Course Outline

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Pre 1998  
OUTLINE EFFECTIVE DATE: September 2019  
COURSE OUTLINE REVIEW DATE: April 2024

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#### GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Social and Political Philosophy explores human beings living together in society. Themes include the philosophical foundations of political systems, concepts of justice and liberty, the role of the state and the individual, and, the question of historical law. Resources include Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, and many more. Perspectives outside the Western Tradition, i.e. Eastern and Indigenous views, will also be explored.

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**Program Information:** This course can be used as either a required course or an elective in several University Studies Programs. Refer to the College Program Guide for additional information.

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**Delivery:** This course is delivered face-to-face, and online.

**COTR Credits:** 3

**Hours for this course:** 45 hours

#### Typical Structure of Instructional Hours for Face-to Face Delivery:

Instructional Activity	Duration
Lecture Hours	45
Seminars / Tutorials	
Laboratory / Studio Hours	
Practicum / Field Experience Hours	
Other Contact Hours	
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>

#### Practicum Hours (if applicable):

Type of Practicum	Duration
On-the-job Experience	N/A
Formal Work Experience	N/A
Other	N/A
<b>Total</b>	

Other Contact Hours

- Online Delivery consisting of weekly discussion topics

**Course Outline Author or Contact:**

Vance Mattson, MA (McGill)

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Signature

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**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

Department Head  
Erin Aasland Hall  
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Dean of Business and University Studies  
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Department Head Signature

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Dean Signature

EDCO

Valid from: September 2019 – April 2024

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Education Council Approval Date

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**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND TRANSFER CREDIT:**

**Prerequisites:** PHIL 101 or 102 recommended

**Corequisites:** None

**Flexible Assessment (FA):**

Credit can be awarded for this course through FA  Yes  No

Learners may request formal recognition for flexible assessment at the College of the Rockies through one or more of the following processes: External Evaluation, Worksite Assessment, Demonstration, Standardized Test, Self-assessment, Interview, Products/Portfolio, Challenge Exam. Contact an Education Advisor for more information.

**Transfer Credit:** For transfer information within British Columbia, Alberta and other institutions, please visit <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>.

Students should also contact an academic advisor at the institution where they want transfer credit.

**Prior Course Number:** N/A

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## Textbooks and Required Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Alan Ebenstein. *Introduction to Political Thinkers*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: Thomson-Wadsworth. 2002. USA

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator

<http://go.cotr.bc.ca/tuition/tCalc.asp> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate knowledge in the origin and evolution of social and political thought in the Western Tradition;
  - identify the historical context and philosophical assumptions and arguments behind defining periods and individual thinkers in social and political philosophy;
  - critically analyze the relationship between nature and civilization throughout the history of social and political thought, including the degree civilization has improved the welfare of individuals and society;
  - discuss the goals and challenges of social and political life, including the tension between individual values and freedoms and political obligation and collective welfare;
  - outline the key concepts of justice, liberty, authority, duty, human rights, and community;
  - compare and contrast various political systems, their origins, arguments, applications, and limitations;
  - explore and analyze social and political perspectives outside the classical Western tradition, such as Indigenous views, the views of Confucius, and those of Buddhism and Ghandi;
  - specify the relevance of social and political philosophy to the domestic and global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
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## COURSE TOPICS:

- Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy
- Plato
- Aristotle
- The Hellenistic Age
- St. Augustine and St. Thomas
- Machiavelli
- Thomas Hobbes
- John Locke
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- Karl Marx
- Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud
- Eastern and Indigenous Perspectives
- Conclusions

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

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## EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT:

Assignments	% Of Total Grade
Essays	40%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

*Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.*

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## EXAM POLICY:

Students must attend all required scheduled exams that make up a final grade at the appointed time and place.

Individual instructors may accommodate for illness or personal crisis. Additional accommodation will not be made unless a written request is sent to and approved by the appropriate Department Head prior to the scheduled exam.

Any student who misses a scheduled exam without approval will be given a grade of "0" for the exam.

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## COURSE GRADE:

Course grades are assigned as follows:

Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Mark (Percent)	≥ 90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	< 50

A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

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## ACADEMIC POLICIES:

See [www.cotr.bc.ca/policies](http://www.cotr.bc.ca/policies) for general college policies related to course activities, including grade appeals, cheating and plagiarism.

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## **COURSE CHANGES:**

Information contained in course outlines is correct at the time of publication. Content of the courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor endeavours to provide notice of changes to students as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to add or delete material from courses.