

POL 200—Introduction to Political Philosophy
2-3:15 TR, Bareis 106
Spring 2023
Dr. Close

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Revised 16-Apr-2023

HOW TO USE THE COURSE SYLLABUS:

The syllabus consists of two (2) separate documents: “General Course Information” and “Assignments.” The syllabus is distributed on paper on the first day of seated classes and is published on my Web site (<http://bright.net/~dclose>) and on the course Canvas (<https://heidelberg.instructure.com/courses/12189>). While relatively stable, the syllabus is subject to change during the semester. All changes are announced and discussed in lecture. You are responsible for carefully reading the most current version of the syllabus. You are responsible for obtaining all hand-outs, assignments, software instructions, and class announcements.

Required texts: “Required” means exactly that. If you don’t plan to buy the required books for this course, please drop the course and take something else—you’re wasting your money.

E-texts: I do not generally recommend e-textbooks because emerging data show poorer student engagement with the readings. Because of the inefficiency and clumsiness of rapidly moving about in an e-text during lecture, I strongly urge you to buy paper books unless otherwise noted in the list below. You should use expedited delivery. It is well worth the few extra dollars. Millions of texts are purchased by students at the beginning of each semester and standard delivery can be so late that it affects your progress in the course.

E-texts Via Beeghly Library: IMPORTANT: Do not check out any of the Beeghly Library e-books listed below. Do not leave the e-book open in your browser. No one else will be able to access it. (Most e-book licenses through Beeghly Library are one user at a time.) Just read it online and then close the browser tab so that other students can access the book.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Audi, Robert. [2000], 1981. *Philosophy: A Brief Guide for Undergraduates*. Newark, DE: American Philosophical Association. ISBN 9-99-197936-0. This pamphlet is free. Print out the HTML version at <http://www.apaonline.org/?page=undergraduates>.
- Cahn, Steven M. 2022. *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-019760-9170. \$79.95 new. This is our main text for the majority of the course.
- Feinberg, Joel. 1973. *Social Philosophy*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall. ISBN: 0-13-817254-4. \$5.43 used on Amazon.
- The House January 6 Committee. 2023. *The January 6 Report*. With a Foreword on the Coup Conspiracy by Ari Melber. New York: Harper. ISBN 978-00633-15501.
- Miller, David. 2003. *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-280395-6. \$11.95 new, \$4 used on Amazon. E-book edition via Beeghly Library at <https://doi-org.he.opal-libraries.org/10.1093/actrade/9780192803955.001.0001>.
- Poundstone, William. 1992. *Prisoner's Dilemma*. New York: Doubleday. ISBN 0-385-41580-X. \$15.95 new, \$6.10 used on Amazon.
- Russell, Bertrand. (1945) 1967. *A History of Western Philosophy*. New York: Simon and Schuster. ISBN: 0-671-20158-1. You do not need to buy this book. E-book edition via Beeghly Library at <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=105264&site=eds-live>.

Note: Additional readings will be distributed in class or via my Web page for this course. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain these hand-outs.

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES:

- Hooper, Finley. 1967. *Greek Realities: Life and Thought in Ancient Greece*. New York: Scribner. Beeghly Library stacks.
- Kenny, Anthony. (2007) 2010. *A New History of Western Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. E-book edition via Beeghly Library at <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=516790&site=ehost-live>.
- Rawls, John. 2007. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Edited by Samuel Freeman. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. PDF available via Beeghly Library at <https://doi-org.he.opal-libraries.org/10.4159/9780674042568>. Unrestricted download.
- Smith, Steven B. 2012. *Political Philosophy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. E-book edition via Beeghly Library at <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=497690&site=eds-live>.
- White, Michael J. 2012. *Political Philosophy: An Historical Introduction*. 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press. E-book edition via Beeghly Library at <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=469383&site=eds-live>.
- Wolff, Jonathan. 2006. *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford University Press. Beeghly Library stacks.

N.B. Students are responsible for obtaining all hand-outs, assignments, software instructions, and class announcements. “Required Texts” means exactly that. If you don’t plan to buy the required books for this course, please drop the course and take something else—you’re wasting your money.

COURSE CANVAS: This course requires enrollment in the course Canvas at <https://heidelberg.instructure.com/courses/12189>. The Canvas site is based on your Heidelberg e-mail address and you should check your Heidelberg e-mail on a daily basis to obtain important announcements from me, other instructors, and administrators. Any e-mail communications from me will be made via your Heidelberg e-mail address. Most, but not all, of my hand-outs are available on the course Canvas or on my Web site. Registration is necessary for full access to all of the course activities and documents.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

POL 200. Introduction to Political Philosophy (H)(R) 3 credit hours. Recitation: 3. Laboratory: 0. Alternative Mode: 0. Introduces major figures, texts, debates, and themes in the history of political philosophy since ancient times. (Spring)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT ON COURSE CONTENT:

Since Introduction to Philosophy is not a prerequisite for this course, an initial goal of the course is to provide a brief overview of the discipline of philosophy.

Social and political philosophy is a subfield of ethics, one of the traditional areas of philosophy. This course will be concerned with the nature and justification of the state, political obligation, social progress, the concepts of freedom, equality, social benefit, harm, justice, fairness, the distribution of valuable goods and services, and related topics. Readings include the key ancient, modern, and 19th century philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Marx, and Mill, as well as contemporary philosophers such as Wolff, Rawls, Nozick, Feinberg, and others. Application of theoretical perspectives to past and contemporary events is emphasized.

The last section of the course will focus on the concepts of rights, harms, and altruism and cooperation versus self-interest in the context of the Prisoner's Dilemma and related 2x2 game theoretic models.

THE ROLE OF THIS COURSE IN THE CURRICULUM:

In addition to content-specific educational goals, the following program goals are addressed in the course work of POL 200:

1. POL 200 is a Core requirement in the Political Science major. It applies to a requirement, but is not required, in the Political Science minor.
2. POL 200 applies to a requirement, but is not required, in the Philosophy minor.
3. POL 200 is required in the Legal Studies minor.
4. POL 200 applies to a requirement, but is not required, in the Social Sciences Support Course component of the Honors Program.
5. POL 200 meets General Education requirements. See the *Heidelberg University Undergraduate Catalog* for details.

COURSE MECHANICS:

Discussion: Most meetings will be discussion-oriented. Credit for participation will have a collective value of 10% of the final grade. Since this course thrives on discussion, it is essential that everyone contribute to the conversation on a regular basis. These are easy points to accumulate, so have fun and join in the arguments!

Quizzes: Three objective reading quizzes will be given. The tentative dates are February 9, March 16, and April 25. The total value of the quizzes is 24% of the final grade. Quiz make-ups will not be given except in cases of serious illness, family emergency, and other absences explained by University policy. (Social events and family vacations are not emergencies!)

Make-up procedure: (1) e-mail me by noon of the day you miss lecture; (2) on the day that you return to classes, contact me by noon to arrange a quiz make-up, should you have missed a quiz. If you are unsure, please talk to me. I strive to be rational!

Individual/Group Writing Assignments: The class will be divided into groups of three or four students. The groups will meet in and out of class from time to time to seek further understanding of the reading assignments and to write papers. *You must be present at a group meeting and participate in the group process to receive credit for that particular group assignment.* (Students who do not cooperate in the group process are subject to expulsion from the group. If I expel a student from his or her group, that student automatically receives a grade of zero for all group papers subsequent to the time of expulsion. No make-up work is permitted.) Each student will serve as group coordinator and scribe for his or her group at least once during the semester. Some writing assignments may be individual rather than group-based. The total value for this work will be 40% of the final grade.

Final Examination: There will be a final examination worth 26% of the final grade. The final examination schedule is established by the Office of Academic Affairs. Please consult it at <https://inside.heidelberg.edu/departments-offices/academic-affairs/final-exam-schedule>. I cannot change the date of your final exam.

Dead Week: I observe Dead Week in all of my undergraduate courses. This means that I do not schedule any quizzes, examinations, or presentations during the last week of the semester. It is my view that the last week of classes should be devoted to preparing for one's remaining lectures and studying for the final examinations.

DISABILITY POLICY:

It is the responsibility of the student with a disability to inform the University and request an accommodation. All students requesting services and/or accommodations must submit documentation of a disability to the Academic and Career Support Center (ACSC). Documentation should meet the Disability Services requirements. Guidelines for documentation are available on the ACSC website and can be picked up in hard copy from that office. Documentation must be submitted before accommodations can be provided.

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Intellectual honesty is critical to the very life of the scholarly community. “Academic dishonesty” means cheating of any kind associated with scholarship and study. It includes, but is not limited to

1. submitting another person’s work or work product as your own, including direct copying or paraphrasing of someone else’s work (plagiarism),
2. “working together” on individual graded assignments,
3. accessing another student’s “Drive M” network disk space without proper University authorization (a Federal crime),
4. copying on tests or other graded assignments,
5. theft of intellectual property,
6. falsification or distortion of data,
7. copying or mimicking the computer work, or program code or design of another student,
8. working with another person in any of the above actions.

Academic dishonesty is bad for the soul and has destroyed many careers. Remember Bertrand Russell’s ninth commandment for beginning philosophers: *be scrupulously truthful, even when truth is inconvenient.*

Penalties: Evidence of academic dishonesty results in an automatic zero for that grade component with no make-up possible, and may result in an automatic F for the course and dismissal from Heidelberg University, given the severity of the offense (theft of an examination, gross plagiarism such as submitting a purchased or borrowed term paper as one’s own, etc.). In any case, a second offense results in an automatic F for the course. University policy provides for further consequences, including dismissal from the University. The full text of the University Academic Honesty Policy is available to students in *Norms, Policies, and Procedures* and at <https://inside.heidelberg.edu/academics/students>. Please read it carefully.

To the Person Who Is Tempted to Cheat: If a student is tempted to cheat, it almost invariably means that he or she is having trouble with the material and mistakenly believes that there is no other choice. The correct response is to ask me for help with the material. My goal is to help you learn. Write me, come see me, or call me at home.

To the Person Who Is Asked to Participate in Cheating: If you are approached by another student seeking to copy your work or “work together” on an individual graded assignment, you must refuse, just as you would refuse to participate in any other unethical activity. Since such a person is frequently a friend or close acquaintance, the situation can be very difficult for you. In such situations, you will have to be blunt. For example, you can say to the person, “This looks like a dangerous area to me. I really don’t want to get involved in it.”

All graded assignments in this course are individual unless I specifically identify an assignment as a group project.

Nota bene: Failure to have read this policy does not excuse or forgive any violations of the policy. This means in part that “I didn’t know that that was wrong” is *not* a justification for cheating.

USE OF ChatGPT AND OTHER AI PROGRAMS IN GRADED WRITING:

ChatGPT can be a valuable source in learning various concepts in this course. You should regard ChatGPT as a person with considerable knowledge about the subject matter, and having an excellent command of English. You cannot use a ChatGPT answer in your writing in this course without citation, just like any other source. To cite ChatGPT, use ChatGPT as the author, and the exact wording of your question as the title, similar to citing a blog in author-date format (see *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed., 15.51).

Example (Chicago/Turabian author-date style):

ChatGPT. 2023. “Why did the Athenians suffer from internal divisions and a lack of unity in the Peloponnesian War?” January 9, 2023. <https://chat.openai.com>.

CLASS PREPARATION:

Undergraduate: The standard rule-of-thumb for undergraduate preparation is three hours outside of class for each hour of lecture. (This yields a figure of forty-five hours per week for undergraduate preparation, based on five courses.)

One’s first encounter with philosophic argumentation can be somewhat of a shock. It is not like reading a history text or a piece of fiction (excluding James Joyce, perhaps) since you may have to spend several minutes on one sentence. I will give instructions in lecture regarding preparing the readings as well as analytical writing and general class preparation.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS:

Short version: none. Focus on your studies! Cellular phones and MP3 players must be turned off and put away out of sight. Headphones must be put away out of sight. PDAs, pagers, radios, and similar devices must be turned off and put away out of sight. Calculators, computers, and voice recorders are prohibited without my permission.

ATTENDANCE:

I assign grades strictly on performance (with the exception of cases of academic dishonesty). Like most things in life, attendance is your decision. Please attend. I like you to attend class! Note that since many classes will have some graded activity occurring, attendance will be very important. No absences are excused other than those due to illness, family emergency, or those excused by University policy. Family vacation plans, social events, early rides home for the holidays, etc. are *not* excused absences!

GRADING SCALE:

I grade on a 50-pass scale: 50, 62.5, 75, 87.5 are the lower-limit cut-offs for D, C, B, and A, respectively. **Do not mistakenly conclude that my courses are therefore “easier” than a professor who uses a 60-pass or 70-pass scale. Grading scales are all equivalent and are purely a matter of personal taste. One scale can be easily converted to another with a pencil and a calculator.** What makes a course relatively easy or difficult is determined by the actual distribution of grades by a specific instructor. A rough, but reliable indicator of grade achievement difficulty is the location of the class mean for a given grade component. For a normal distribution of grades, we should expect the class mean to fall in the very middle of the C-range of that instructor’s grading scale.

ACCESS VIA OFFICE HOURS:

Office: Bareis 320

T by appointment only, 1:30-2
Th by appointment only, 1:30-2; 4:15-4:45

This schedule is subject to change. Check my Web site for the most current version at <http://bright.net/~dclose>.

ACCESS VIA E-MAIL: dclose@heidelberg.edu

ACCESS VIA PHONE:

Office phone: 419-448-2281, or 1-800-925-9250 ext. 2281

Home phone: 419-927-2514 (please call before 10 p.m.)

WEB PAGE:

I maintain a home page on the World Wide Web. This page contains links to the courses that I am currently teaching in a given semester, a link to the Heidelberg College Home Page, and other useful links.

<http://bright.net/~dclose>

SELECTED REFERENCES

(Does not include most classical sources)

- Anderson, Elizabeth S. 1999. "What Is the Point of Equality?" *Ethics* 109, no. 2 (January): 287–337.
<https://doi.org/10.1086/233897>.
- Appiah, Kwame Anthony. 2021. "Digging for Utopia." *New York Review of Books* 68, no. 20 (December 16): 80–82. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=153642037&site=eds-live>.
- Arendt, Hannah. 1961. "What is Freedom?" Chapter Four. *Between Past and Future: Six Exercises in Political Thought*. New York: Viking Press.
- Axelrod, R. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Penguin Books.
- Benn, Stanley I., and Richard S. Peters. (1959) 1963. *Social Principles and the Democratic State*. 3d ed. London: George Allen & Unwin.
- Benner, Erica. 2013. *Machiavelli's Prince: A New Reading*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0199653638.
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- Berlin, Isaiah. (1958) 1969. "Two Concepts of Liberty." *Four Essays on Liberty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Berlin, Isaiah. 1962. "Does Political Theory Still Exist?" in Peter Laslett and W. G. Runciman (eds), *Philosophy, Politics and Society*, 2nd Series. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Brandt, Richard B., ed. 1962. *Social Justice*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. ISBN: 9780138157463.
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- Cahn, Steven M. 2011. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy*. 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-01997-91156. \$49.95 new.
- Cahn, Steven M. and Robert B. Talisse. 2011. *Political Problems*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education. ISBN 0-205-64247-0.
- Carritt, E. F. 1940. "Liberty and Equality." *Law Quarterly Review* 56.
- Dyke, Charles. 1981. *Philosophy of Economics*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. ISBN: 0-13-663336-6.
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<https://ia600203.us.archive.org/28/items/SocialPhilosophy/SocialPhilosophy.pdf> .
- Feinberg, Joel. 1987. *Harm to Others (Moral Limits for Criminal Law, Vol 1)*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0-19504-664-1. \$21.00.

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- Goodin, Robert, and Philip Pettit, eds. 1993. *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Cambridge, MA.: Blackwell Publishers. ISBN 0-631-19951-9.
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- Goodin, Robert, Philip Pettit, and Thomas Pogge, eds. 2007. *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy Volume Two*. 2d ed. Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN 978-1405136532.
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- Grant, Ruth W. 2002. "Political Theory, Political Science, and Politics." *Political Theory* 30, no. 4 (September): 577-595. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0090591702030004007>.
- Hacker, Andrew. 1997. *Money: Who Has How Much and Why*. New York: Touchstone Books. ISBN 0-68-484662-4. \$13.00.
- Hayek, F. A. 1988. *The Fatal Conceit: The Errors of Socialism*. Edited by W. W. Bartley III. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-32066-9. \$15.00.
- Heilbroner, Robert L. 1999. *The Worldly Philosophers: The Lives, Times and Ideas of the Great Economic Thinkers. Seventh Edition*. New York: Touchstone Books. ISBN: 0-68486-214-X. \$15.00.
- Kymlicka, William. 1990. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Levin, Yuval. 2013. *The Great Debate: Edmund Burke, Thomas Paine, and the Birth of Right and Left*. New York: Basic Books. ISBN 0-465-05097-2.
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- Smith, Steven B. 2012. *Political Philosophy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 0-30-018180-9. \$18 new.
- Review of *Social Principles and the Democratic State* by Stanley I. Benn and Richard S. Peters; *British Conservatism, 1832-1914*, by R. B. McDowell; and *The Analysis of Political Systems*, by Douglas V. Verney. 2012. *Political Quarterly* 83 (September): 332–334. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-923X.02404> 6.
- Solomon, Robert C., and Mark C. Murphy. 2000. *What is Justice? Classic and Contemporary Readings*. 2d ed. New York: Oxford University Press.
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