

ASSIGNMENTS

(Rev. 29-Apr-2023)

Instructions: This document is tentative. Complete all reading assignments shown prior to that day’s lecture. Because the amount of reading for a given Thursday may be significant, I recommend completing all reading for the week prior to Tuesday. Online reading assignments should be printed and brought to lecture along with your textbooks. Students are responsible for checking the Canvas for updates to this hand-out.

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.

Lecture Date	Topics	Readings and Assignments
Lecture 1 Jan. 10	Introduction to POL 200; What is Philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll in the course Canvas by the end of the day.
Lecture 2 Jan. 12	What is Political Philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Audi, <i>Philosophy: A Brief Guide for Undergraduates</i>. Bertrand Russell, “Ten Commandments for Beginning Philosophers” (hand-out also on Canvas). “What is Philosophy?” (hand-out also on Canvas). Steven M. Cahn, Preface, <i>Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts</i> (hereafter, “Cahn”). David Miller, <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> (2003), Preface, Ch. 1 (“Why do we need political philosophy?”), Ch. 2 (“Political authority”).
Lecture 3 Jan. 17	Socrates (470-399) Plato (427-347) Trial and death of Socrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Kraut, “Plato: Introduction,” in Cahn. Plato, <i>Apology</i> (ca. 365 BCE) (“Defence of Socrates”), <i>Crito</i>, in Cahn. Commentary: Bertrand Russell, <i>A History of Western Philosophy</i>, Book 1, Ch. 10 (“The Pre-Socratics”), pp. 84-86, Ch. 11 (“Socrates”). E-book edition via Beeghly Library at https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=105264&site=eds-live.
Lecture 4 Jan. 19	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> : Thrasymachus and moral relativism; the Kallipolis plan; the Noble Lie; justice defined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato, <i>Republic</i> (ca. 375 BCE), Books I, II and III, in Cahn. Commentary: Bertrand Russell, <i>A History of Western Philosophy</i>, Book 1, Ch. 12 (“The Influence of Sparta”), Ch. 13 (“The Sources of Plato’s Opinions”), and Ch. 14 (“Plato’s Utopia”). E-book edition via Beeghly Library at https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=105264&site=eds-live
Lecture 5 Jan. 24	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> : four cardinal virtues; tripartite theory of the soul; the role of women; education of children; theory vs. practice;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books IV, V, and VI, in Cahn.

Lecture 6 Jan. 26	Plato's <i>Republic</i> : Theory of Forms; Allegory of the Cave; timocracy, oligarchy, democracy, tyranny, justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books VII and VIII, in Cahn. Commentary: Antonis Coumoundouros, "Plato: <i>The Republic</i>," <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/republic/. Commentary: S. Marc Cohen, "The Allegory of the Cave," http://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/cave.htm Commentary: Animation of the Allegory of the Cave at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_jmJGBJRIUQ Commentary: S. Marc Cohen, "Theory of Forms," http://faculty.washington.edu/smcohen/320/thforms.htm Group In-Class Writing Assignment #1 (≈ 5%): The Allegory of the Cave
Lecture 7 Feb. 2	Aristotle (384-322 BCE); <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : happiness; virtue and Doctrine of the Golden Mean; injustice is not ignorance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Kraut, "Aristotle: Introduction," in Cahn. Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (late 4th century BCE), Book I, Chs. 1,2, and 7; Book II, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 6, and 9, in Cahn. Commentary: Bertrand Russell, <i>A History of Western Philosophy</i>, Book 1, Ch. 20 ("Aristotle's Ethics"). E-book edition via Beeghly Library at https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=105264&sit e=eds-live
Lecture 8 Feb. 7	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> : man is a political animal; types of governments; justice and equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> (late 4th century BCE), Book I, Chs. 1, 2, 4, and 5; Book II, Chs. 1-5; Book III, Chs. 1-4, 6-8; Book IV, Chs. 11-12, in Cahn. Commentary: Edward Clayton, "Aristotle: Politics," <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/aris-pol/. Group In-Class Writing Assignment #2 (≈ 5%): Aristotle on Constitutions
Lecture 9 Feb. 9	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> : factional conflict; nature of the highest good; happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>, Book V, Chs. 2, 8-9, in Cahn. Reading Quiz #1 (8%)—covers material from the beginning of the semester through February 7.
Lecture 10 Feb. 14	Niccolò Machiavelli (1469- 1527); Renaissance Florence; <i>The Prince</i> and the question of satire; <i>Discourses</i> , defense of republicanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steven B. Smith, "Niccolò Machiavelli: Introduction," in Cahn. Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> (1513); <i>Discourses on Livy</i> (1531), in Cahn. Commentary: Alexander Moseley, "Political Realism," <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/polreal/. Commentary: Bertrand Russell, <i>A History of Western Philosophy</i>, Book 3, Ch. 3 ("Machiavelli"). E-book edition via Beeghly Library at https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=105264&sit e=eds-live
Lecture 11 Feb. 16	Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679); <i>Leviathan</i> ; Divine right state of nature; social contract theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean Hampton, "Thomas Hobbes: Introduction," in Cahn. Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> (1651), in Cahn. Commentary: Gareth Williams, "Thomas Hobbes: Moral and Political Philosophy," <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/hobmoral/. Commentary: Sharon A. Lloyd and Susanne Sreedhar, "Hobbes's Moral and Political Philosophy," <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hobbes-moral/. Commentary: Bertrand Russell, <i>A History of Western Philosophy</i>, Book 3, Ch. 8 ("Hobbes' Leviathan"). E-book edition via Beeghly Library at https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=105264&sit e=eds-live Group In-Class Writing Assignment #3 (≈ 5%): Hobbes on the Social Contract

Lecture 12 Feb. 21	John Locke (1632-1704); <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> ; empiricism; classical liberalism; origin of political society; explicit and tacit consent; majority rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. John Simmons, “John Locke: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> (1689), in Cahn. • Commentary: Joshua May, “Psychological Egoism” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/psychego/. • In-Class Simulation: John Immerwahr’s “The Hobbes Game.” No preparation required.
Lecture 13 Feb. 23	Locke, continued; state of nature and law of nature; freedom; equality; Golden Rule; labor theory of property religious freedom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration</i> (1689), in Cahn. • Commentary: Alexander Moseley, “John Locke: Political Philosophy,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/locke-po/. • Group In-Class Writing Assignment #4 (≈ 5%): Locke on Property and Natural Rights
Lecture 14 Feb. 28	Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778); Primitive man, inequality, social contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joshua Cohen, “Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> (1754), in Cahn. • Rousseau, <i>Of The Social Contract</i> (1762), in Cahn. • Commentary: James J. Delaney, “Jean-Jacques Rousseau,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/rousseau/.
Lecture 15 Mar. 2	David Hume (1711-1776)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur Kuflik, “David Hume: Introduction,” in Cahn. • David Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i> (1751), in Cahn. • David Hume, <i>Of Parties in General</i> (1741), <i>Of the Original Contract</i> (1748), <i>Of the Origin of Government</i>, in Cahn. • David Miller, <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i>, Ch.3 (“Democracy”). • Commentary: James Fieser, “David Hume,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/hume/. • Group In-Class Writing Assignment #5 (≈ 5%): Rousseau and Hume on the Social Contract
Lecture 16 Mar. 14	Adam Smith (1723-1790)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles L. Griswold, Jr., “Adam Smith: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Adam Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> (1776), in Cahn. • Commentary: Jack Russell Weinstein, “Adam Smith,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/smith/.
Lecture 17 Mar. 16	Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826); James Madison (1751-1836); Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Jefferson, <i>The Declaration of Independence</i> (1776), in Cahn. • James Madison, <i>Constitution of the United States</i>, Amendments I-X--the Bill of Rights (1791), in Cahn. • James Madison, <i>The Federalist Papers</i> (1787), Numbers 10 and 51, in Cahn. • Virginia Sapiro, “Mary Wollstonecraft: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (1792), in Cahn • Commentary: Shane J. Ralston, “American Enlightenment Thought,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/amer-enl/. • Reading Quiz #2 (8%)—covers material from February 9 through March 14.

Lecture 18 Mar. 21	Karl Marx (1818-1883); labor as a commodity, surplus value and profit, estrangement and the alienation of labor, internal contradictions of capitalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Miller, “Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Karl Marx, <i>Value, Price, and Profit</i> (1865), Chs. VII-IX, in Cahn • Karl Marx, “Estranged Labor,” <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i>, in Cahn. • Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, <i>Manifesto of the Communist Party</i> (1848), in Cahn. • Commentary: Jonathan Wolff, “Marx: Economics,” <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/marx/#3/. • Group In-Class Writing Assignment #6 (≈ 5%): Marx on Surplus Value and the Estrangement of Labor
Lecture 19 Mar. 23	John Stuart Mill (1806-1873); the Harm Principle, women’s rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Waldron, “John Stuart Mill: Introduction,” in Cahn. • John Stuart Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> (1863), in Cahn. • John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> (1859), in Cahn. • David Miller, <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i>, Ch.4 (“Freedom and the limits of government”). • John Stuart Mill, <i>The Subjection of Women</i> (1869), in Cahn. • Commentary: Colin Heydt, “John Stuart Mill,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/milljs/.
Lecture 20 Mar. 28	W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963); Martha Nussbaum (1947-); the feminist critique of liberalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrick Darby, “W. E. B. Du Bois: Introduction,” in Cahn. • W. E. B. Du Bois, “Of the Ruling of Men,” (Ch. VI in <i>Darkwater: Voices from within the Veil</i>, 1920), in Cahn. • Eva Feder Kittay, “Martha C. Nussbaum: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities and Social Justice,” (2002), in Cahn.
Lecture 21 Mar. 30	John Rawls (1921-2003); the original position, the two principles of justice, veil of ignorance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LECTURE CANCELLED. Prepare readings. • Joshua Cohen, “John Rawls: Introduction,” in Cahn. • John Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (1971), in Cahn. • Commentary: Henry S. Richardson, “John Rawls,” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/rawls/.
Lecture 22 Apr. 6	Rawls’ theory of justice, continued; Elizabeth S. Anderson (1959-); luck egalitarianism vs. democratic equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Miller, <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> (2003), Ch. 5 (“Justice”). • Rekha Nath, “Elizabeth S. Anderson: Introduction,” in Cahn. • Elizabeth S. Anderson, “What Is the Point of Equality?” (1999), in Cahn. • In-Class Simulation: James Moulder, “Playing with Justice: An Introduction to Rawls.” <i>Teaching Philosophy</i> 10, no. 4 (December 1987): 339-344. No preparation required.
Lecture 23 Apr. 11	Joel Feinberg (1926-2004); Freedom and the Harm Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joel Feinberg, <i>Social Philosophy</i> (1973), Ch. 1 (“The Concept of Freedom”), Ch. 2 (“Grounds for Coercion”). • Group In-Class Writing Assignment #7 (≈ 5%): Feinberg on Freedom and the Harm Principle
Lecture 24 Apr. 13	Harm Principle cont., Legal Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joel Feinberg, <i>Social Philosophy</i>, Ch. 3 (“Hard Cases for the Harm Principle”), Ch. 4 (“Legal Rights”), Ch. 5 (“Conflicts of Legal Rights”).

Lecture 25 Apr. 18	Human Rights and Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Miller, <i>Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</i> (2003), Ch. 6 (“Feminism and Multiculturalism”) and Ch. 7 (“Nations, States, and Global Justice”). Joel Feinberg, <i>Social Philosophy</i>, Ch. 6 (“Human Rights”), Ch. 7 (“Social Justice”). Group In-Class Writing Assignment #8 (≈ 5%): Feinberg on Human Rights and Social Justice
Lecture 26 Apr. 20	Game theory: Self-interest, cooperation, Prisoner’s Dilemma; P.D. in Hobbes, Locke, and Hume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Poundstone, <i>Prisoner’s Dilemma</i> (1992), Chs. 1-3, 5, 6. Commentary: Alexander Moseley, “Egoism” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/egoism/. In-Class Simulation: Prisoner’s Dilemma.
Lecture 27 April 25	Game theory: Chicken, Volunteer’s Dilemma, Stag Hunt, TIT FOR TAT, Dollar Auction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Poundstone. <i>Prisoner’s Dilemma</i>, Chs. 8, 10-13. Commentary: Till Grüne-Yanoff, “Game Theory” <i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>, http://www.iep.utm.edu/game-th/. Reading Quiz #3 (8%)—covers material from March 16 through April 20.
Lecture 28 April 27	January 6, 2021 Insurrection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, <i>The January 6 Report</i> (2022). A PDF is now available at https://int.nyt.com/data/documenttools/january-6-committee-final-report/2095325cbebd8378/full.pdf. However, this PDF does not include Melber’s excellent Foreword. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ari Melber, “Foreword on the Coup Conspiracy,” pp. V-XXXII ➤ Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, “Foreword: The Last Best Hope of Earth,” p. vii ➤ Committee Chair Bennie G. Thompson, “Foreword,” pp. viii-xiii ➤ Committee Vice Chair Liz Cheney, “Foreword,” pp. xiv-xvii ➤ “Executive Summary [introduction],” 1-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Big Lie,” pp. 8-28 • “Rather Than Concede, Donald Trump Chooses to Obstruct the January 6th Proceeding,” pp. 28-41 • “Efforts to Pressure States to Change the Election Outcome, and to Create and Transmit Fake Election Certificates,” pp. 41-48 • “Efforts to Corrupt the Department of Justice,” pp. 48-55 • “Summoning a Mob to Washington, and Knowing They Were Angry and Armed, Instructing Them to March to the Capitol,” pp. 55-75 • “187 Minutes: Trump’s Dereliction of Duty,” pp. 75-95 • “The Immediate Aftermath of January 6th,” pp. 95-98 • “Referrals to the U.S. Department of Justice Special Counsel and House Ethics Committee,” pp. 98-118 • “Efforts to Avoid Testifying, Evidence of Obstruction, and Assessments of Witness Credibility,” pp. 118-128 • “Summary: Creation of the Select Committee; Purposes,” pp. 128-131 • “Select Committee Witnesses Were Almost Entirely Republican,” pp. 131-134.
Lecture 29 May 2	January 6, 2021 Insurrection; Final Exam details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>January 6 Report</i>, Ch. 8 (“Analysis of the Attack”). Final Exam review

