

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL-236: Social & Political Philosophy

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Summer 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In-person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

For COVID-19 information please visit <https://legacy.camosun.ca/covid19/index.html>.

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable explanation in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Anthony J. Gavin

EMAIL: GavinA@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Young 312

HOURS: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-3pm (after class on both days)

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introduction to classical philosophical works concerning central philosophical issues such as the nature and possibility of knowledge, the existence of God, the nature of morality and justice, and the mind/body relationship.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. Summarize and evaluate central problems in Western political philosophy.
2. Critically examine classical and contemporary solutions to these problems.
3. Compare between various philosophical/political positions and describe the history of political philosophy in general.
4. Take a philosophical/political position and support that position with good reasons (evidence).
5. Explain the relevance of political philosophy to contemporary social problems concerning beliefs and values, knowledge and justification.
6. Describe and critically assess specific cases and alternative solutions to contemporary social/political problems.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

Textbook: Steven Cahn, *Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022 (available in bookstore).

Additional readings will be available on D2L.

Additional recommended resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP): <https://plato.stanford.edu>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (IEP): <https://iep.utm.edu>

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Readings are in the course textbook unless otherwise stated.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
WEEK ONE	ANCIENT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY	
Wednesday, July 5 th	<i>Topic: What is Justice?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory lecture• Review course syllabus Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Book I, pp. 32-53 Optional readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stauffer, D. (2009), "Thrasymachus' Attachment to Justice?," <i>Polis: The Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought</i>, 26(1), pp. 1-10 (D2L)	<i>I don't expect you to be caught up on the readings on the first day, but they will be referenced in my introductory lecture.</i>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
WEEK TWO	ANCIENT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, cont'd	
Monday, July 10 th	<p><i>Topic: Why Choose Justice?</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books II-IV, pp. 53-71 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deane, S. & Shuffelton, A. (2016), "Plato and the Police: Dogs, Guardians, and Why Accountability is the Wrong Answer," <i>Educational Studies</i>, 52(6), pp. 491-505 (D2L) 	
Wednesday, July 12 th	<p><i>Topic: Foundations of Political Science</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, Books I-II, pp. 101-104 Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>, Books I-V, pp. 105-127 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friedman, M. (2009), "Feminist Virtue Ethics, Happiness, and Moral Luck," <i>Hypatia</i>, 24(1), pp. 29-40 (D2L) 	
WEEK THREE	SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY	
Monday, July 17 th	<p><i>Topic: The Sublime Art of Sovereignty</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hobbes, T., <i>Leviathan</i>, pp. 199-230 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hillani, A. (2023), "Hobbes Among the Savages: Politics, War, and Enmity in the So-called State of Nature," <i>Hobbes Studies</i>, 36(1), pp. 1-25 (D2L) 	Seminar Quiz #1
Wednesday, July 19 th	<p><i>Topic: Social Contract as Social Criticism</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rousseau, J-J., <i>Of the Social Contract</i>, pp. 323-348 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evans, M. (199), "Freedom in Society: Rousseau's Challenge," <i>Inquiry</i>, 38(1), pp. 233-255 (D2L) 	
WEEK FOUR	NATURAL RIGHT AND ETHICAL STATEHOOD	
Monday, July 24 th	<p><i>Topic: Deontology and Kantian Contractualism</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kant, I., <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i>, pp. 414-423 Kant, I., <i>Perpetual Peace</i>, pp. 436-448 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowles, A. (2017), "Hospitality's Downfall: Kant, Cosmopolitanism, and Refugees," <i>The Journal of Speculative Philosophy</i>, 31(3), pp. 347-357 (D2L) 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Wednesday, July 26 th	<p><i>Topic: Statehood as Concrete Realization of Ethical Life</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hegel, G., <i>Philosophy of Right</i>, pp. 469-485 Hegel, G., <i>Introduction to the Philosophy of History</i>, pp. 485-493 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuzzo, A. (2021), "Hegel's <i>Philosophy of Right</i> and the Idea of the World: Dialectic's 'Political Cosmology'," <i>Critical Review</i>, 33(3-4), pp. 332-358 (D2L) 	
WEEK FIVE	MARXISM AND POST-MARXISM	
Monday, July 31 st	<p><i>Topic: From Alienation to Critique</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marx, K., <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i>, pp. 546-554 Marx, K. & Engels, F., <i>The German Ideology</i>, pp. 554-560 Marx & Engels, <i>A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy</i>, pp. 573-574 Marx & Engels, <i>Value, Price and Profit</i>, pp. 574-584 <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lukacs, G. (1923/72), "Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat," <i>History and Class Consciousness</i>, pp. 83-110 (D2L) 	Seminar Quiz #2
Wednesday, August 2 nd	<p><i>Topic: The Inescapability of Ideology</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Althusser, L. (1970/2008), "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," <i>On Ideology</i>, pp. 1-44 (on D2L) <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leopold, D. (2013), "Marxism and Ideology: From Marx to Althusser," <i>The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies</i>, pp. 1-20 (D2L) 	
WEEK SIX	*TBD – STUDENTS TO DECIDE	
Monday, August 7 th	<p>BC Day (college closed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lecture or seminar 	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Wednesday, August 9 th	<p><i>*Topic: TBD</i></p> <p><i>Refer to the handout in Week 1 for the <u>list of topics</u>, then <u>cast your vote</u> before the end of Week 2!</i></p> <p><i>Readings will be posted on D2L up to one week prior.</i></p>	
WEEK SEVEN	ON VIOLENCE	
Monday, August 14 th	<p><i>Topic: De/colonial Violence</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fanon, F. (1961/2004), "Concerning Violence," <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>, pp. 35-95 (D2L) <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carastathis, A. (2010), "Fanon on Turtle Island: Revisiting the Question of Violence," <i>Fanon and the Decolonization of Philosophy</i>, pp. 77-102 (D2L) 	Seminar Quiz #3
Wednesday, August 16 th	<p><i>Topic: Violence and Liberal Democracy</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arendt, H. (1969), "Reflections on Violence," <i>Journal of International Affairs</i>, 23(1), pp. 1-35 (D2L) <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaw, D. (2020), "A Philosophy of Antifascism," <i>A Philosophy of Antifascism: Punching Nazis and Fighting White Supremacy</i>, pp. 1-22 (on D2L) 	
WEEK EIGHT	WHAT IF THINGS DON'T GET BETTER?	
Monday, August 21 st	<p><i>Topic: Intractable Evil and Nonideal Pessimism</i></p> <p>Required readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norlock, K. (2019), "Perpetual Struggle," <i>Hypatia</i>, 34(1), pp. 6-19 (on D2L) <p>Optional readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
August 22-24	<i>Final Exam Period</i>	Final essay due Aug. 24th

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced noticed is required. Deadlines scan be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Seminar activities (7 x 5%)	35%
Seminar quizzes (3 x 10%)	30%
Final essay	25%
Participation	10%
	TOTAL
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

1. COVID-19 Guidelines

For up-to-date information on the college's COVID-19 guidelines, please use the following link: <https://camosun.ca/about/covid-19-updates>

2. Course Delivery and Attendance

As soon as you register, you'll have access to the course website on D2L. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the course website. This is where you'll find any readings not included in the course textbook.

Students are expected to attend lecture and seminar each week. No excuse is necessary if you are unable to attend, but regular non-attendance will negatively impact your grade, especially participation (as discussed further below). Please ensure that you are caught up on the required reading(s) before each seminar, so that you can fully participate in seminar activities.

It is very important to attend the first class. Failure to do so will result in your being automatically dropped. If you are unable to attend the first class, please let me know as soon as possible.

3. Academic Integrity

You are welcome to discuss course material with others in your class, and work together to solve problems. However, any work that you hand in must be your own. Passing off another's work as your own constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious academic offence. *This includes work copied from a nonhuman source, such as artificial intelligence (AI)-powered text generators.* If you are ever unsure about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, please consult the college's Academic Integrity Policy (<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>).

4. Late Submissions and Extensions

Late work is penalized at a rate of 10% per day, up to a maximum of 5 days, after which it will no longer be accepted. Make-ups for in-class quizzes will be considered, on a case by case basis, *with a valid excuse.*

5. Communication and Office Hours

Email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 1 working day. If you don't hear back from me after that time, please feel free to try me again, in case your message went astray. If you are ever nervous about sending me an email, please feel free to include a picture of a cute animal or hilarious meme with your request. This will not affect whether I'll be able to help with your request, but it does provide a nice icebreaker.

Congratulations! You found an easter egg. For a bonus 1% to be added your final grade, simply email me the secret passphrase, "better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied." Thanks for reading the syllabus!

I will be available for **office hours** on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 1:30-3pm (right after class). My office is located in the Young Building, Room 312. Priority will be given to students with appointments, but drop-ins are also more than welcome. I am also available for online appointments via Zoom (in which case, you'll need to schedule an appointment, so I can send you the Zoom invite).

Finally, my pronouns are he/him/his. If you think I am unlikely to know the name you would prefer to be called, or the pronouns that I should use for you through the entry that I will see for you on D2L and your college registration, please don't hesitate to make me aware.

6. Basis of Evaluation

- **Seminar quizzes (3 x 10% = 30%)**

Each seminar quiz consists of three sections: (1) matching, (2) multiple choice, and (3) short answer.

Each quiz lasts 20 minutes, plus a 5 minute grace period (unless you have made alternative arrangements with me through CAL). The timer will start at the beginning of each seminar in which there is a quiz assigned, *so be sure to arrive on time!*

- Seminar quiz #1 is on **Monday, July 17th**
- Seminar quiz #2 is on **Monday, July 31st**
- Seminar quiz #3 is on **Monday, August 14th**

- **Seminar activities (7 x 5% = 35%)**

Seminar activities will take place in each seminar without a quiz, equating to 10 seminars total. You may miss up to 3 seminar activities penalty-free.

For each seminar activity, the class will be divided into groups of 3-4. Each group will then be handed a worksheet to complete, with questions about the readings. Worksheets will be handed back to me at the end of seminar and graded for completion. Each activity lasts 20 minutes, plus a 5 minute grace period, after which time we will come together to continue the discussion as a class.

- **Final essay (25%)**

Write a short philosophical essay, on a topic of your choosing, from a list of topics prepared by me.

Your essay should be **1500-2000 words** in length (please do not exceed a maximum of 2500 words). This amounts to about 6-8 pages, using a 12-pt Times New Roman font, double spaced. Please clearly indicate your chosen topic on the cover page.

- Final essays are due by the end of the exam period, on **Thursday, August 24th**.

Students have the chance to earn up to 5% of their take-home essay score in advance. All that you have to do is submit a **rough draft** for me to review, on or before Thursday, August 10th (two weeks before the final essay is due). Rough drafts are graded for completion only; however, please note that an incomplete, or improperly formatted draft will not be considered complete. A completed rough draft will earn you 5%, and the weight of your final essay will be adjusted to 20% accordingly.

Students may also wish to write on a topic of their own choosing. You are free to do so; however, you must propose your topic to me first, by no later than Thursday, August 3rd (three weeks before the final essay is due). This is to give us an opportunity to workshop your idea before you get started. Many a zealous undergraduate has bitten off questions fit for a doctoral dissertation!

Paper copies are preferred, but electronic submissions are acceptable if printing is impossible. If submitting electronically, please ensure that you email your essay to me (at GavinA@camosun.ca) before the deadline. The same late penalties apply whether you submit in-class or online.

- **Participation (10%)**

Please note that merely attending class is not the same thing as participating!

Every time that we meet, you'll have the opportunity to earn one participation point. Earning 10 of these points will get you full marks for participation.

The surest way to earn your participation point each week is to engage in in-class discussions. However, I recognize that there are multiple other ways to participate, and that some students face barriers to in-class participation. Hence, email exchanges, office hours appointments, or even a quick chat after class can all count towards participation.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

School of Arts & Science

Camosun College Lansdowne
School of Arts & Science | Fisher 104
Office Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm

Phone: 250-370-3298

Email: artsci@camosun.ca

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services->

and-support/e-2.9.pdf and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Changes to this syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.