

# Political Philosophy

2019/2020 Semester 2

**Course Organiser:** Dr. Filipa Melo Lopes [Filipa.MeloLopes@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Filipa.MeloLopes@ed.ac.uk)

Office Hour: Friday 13:00-14:00 (DSB 4.05)

**Course Secretary:** Miss Ann-Marie Cowe [philinfo@ed.ac.uk](mailto:philinfo@ed.ac.uk)

## Times and Location

Seminar	Wednesday	11:10 -13:00	7 George Square S.1.
Tutorial 1	Thursday	10:00- 10:50	DSB 1.17
Tutorial 2	Thursday	15:10 – 16:00	DSB 1.17
Tutorial 3	Friday	10:00 - 10:50	DSB 3.10
Tutorial 4	Friday	11:10 – 12:00	DSB 1.17

NOTE: different times for Week 4 Tutorials (see below)

## Course Description

This course introduces students to the liberal tradition in Western Political Philosophy. We will trace the historical roots of contemporary issues and pay special attention to recent critiques. Some of the questions we will be interested include: What makes a state legitimate? What is justice? What is the role of culture and community in just political arrangements? What is the relation between liberty and equality? And how can we ask these questions in patriarchal and racist social contexts? We will start the course by following the development of key ideas in early modern Europe, through the work of authors such as Hobbes, Rousseau and Mill. We will then focus on 20th century North American liberalism as articulated by John Rawls. We will explore Rawls' influential work and equally influential critiques from libertarian, feminist, and anti-racist perspectives. We will finish by looking at related 20<sup>th</sup> century debates regarding the relation between liberty, equality and community. We will be paying special attention to conceptual distinctions regarding equality and liberty and we will study multiculturalist and communitarian arguments in the context of those distinctions.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be better able to:

- Explain key ideas and debates in Political Philosophy.

- Relate, compare, and contrast the positions of various authors studied in the course.
- Explain the historical development of contemporary Political Philosophy, and its relation to other positions and debates.
- Articulate arguments succinctly and clearly in an essay format.

## Assessment

Midterm Essay (1500 words) DUE: Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> by 12 noon	40 %
Final Essay (2500 words) DUE: Apr 23 <sup>th</sup> by 12 noon 10% of your grade for this essay: essay plan DUE: Apr 6 <sup>th</sup> by 12 noon	60 %

## Topics and Readings

Lecture notes and other materials will be available on [Learn](#) or using the library search engine [DiscoverED](#).

All of the indicated readings are *required* readings for seminar and tutorial meetings that week.

*Week 1* Introduction  
Seminar only – tutorials do not meet

### I – Themes in Early Modern Political Philosophy

*Week 2*

- Thomas Hobbes  
*Leviathan* (1651): Introduction, Part 1 13-15; Part 2 Chap. 17-18, 21 [Learn]

- John Locke  
*The Second Treatise of Civil Government* (1689): Chap. 1-5,7-9, 13 [Learn]

*Week 3*

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau  
*On the Social Contract* (1762): Book I; Book II Chap. 1-4, 6-11; Book IV Chap. 1-2 [Learn]

- Edmund Burke  
*Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790) [two excerpts on Learn]

*Week 4*

- Jeremy Bentham  
*Anarchic Fallacies* (1843) [Learn]

- John Stuart Mill  
*On Liberty* (1859) Chap. 1-2, 4 [Learn]

- Harriet Taylor Mill  
*The Enfranchisement of Women* (1851) [Learn]

**Note: Change in Tutorials for Week 4**

Thursday Tutorials > Wednesday 13:10 – 14:00 (7 George Square S.1)  
Friday Tutorials > Wednesday 16:10 – 17:00 (50 George Square G.06)

**II - Rawls and his Critics**

- Week 5*
- John Rawls  
*Justice as Fairness* (2001): Part I Chap. 1-2 [Learn]  
*A Theory of Justice* (1971): Part I Chap. 3-5,11,17, 24, 26 [DiscoverEd]
- Week 6*
- Robert Nozick  
*Anarchy State and Utopia* (1974): pp. 150-164,174-182, 232-246 [Learn]
- Week 7*
- Moller Okin  
*Justice, gender, and the family* (1989): Chap. 5 [Learn]
  - Charles W. Mills  
*The Racial Contract* (1997): Chap. 1 [DiscoverEd]

**III – Freedom, Equality & Community**

- Week 8*
- Isaiah Berlin  
*Two Concepts of Liberty* (1958) [DiscoverEd in “Liberty” Edited by Henry Hardy 2002]
  - Jeremy Waldron  
*Homelessness and the Issue of Freedom* (1991) [DiscoverEd]
- Week 9*
- Will Kymlicka  
*Liberal Equality* (2002): pp. 75-97 [Learn]
  - Elizabeth Anderson  
*What is the Point of Equality?* (1989): pp. 287-289,312-337 [DiscoverEd]
- Week 10*
- Michael Sandel  
*The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self*(1984) [DiscoverEd]
  - Charles Taylor  
*Atomism* (1979) [Learn]
- Week 11*
- Will Kymlicka  
*Multiculturalism* (2002) [Learn]
  - Sarah Song  
*Multiculturalism, Majority Norms and Gender Equality* (2005) [DiscoverEd]