PHIL 307 – Social and Political Philosophy
University of Oregon
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Steven Breone
Email: brences@uoregon.edu
Office: 250 Susan Campbell Hall
Hours: 1:00-3:00, Wednesdays, or by Appt.
GTFs: Megan Burke, mburke2@uoregon.edu
      Jon LaRochelle, jon@uoregon.edu

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to many of the most influential and important thinkers in the history of Western social and political philosophy. Beginning with Plato, the development of social and political thought will be traced with an attention to the context of the original writing, the interconnections between the texts, and to their current relevance.

Required Text:

Additional Texts will be available on the Blackboard page for the course (Course Documents/Readings)

Course Requirements and Grades:

- Two maximum 4-page essays - 50% (25% each)
- One maximum 6-page essay - 30%
- Attendance and participation -20% - participation, both in lecture and discussion, may include the submission of small written assignments.

Assignment Guidelines:

All written work, unless otherwise specified, should be written independently. You are encouraged to discuss all aspects of this course with your fellow students, but the work you turn in must be entirely your own. Any academic dishonesty will result, at minimum, in course failure. University of Oregon Academic Misconduct Code: [http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx](http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx)

All work is to be submitted in class, unless otherwise directed. No work may be submitted via email without prior arrangement. Late essays will be marked down according to degree of lateness. Smaller written assignments will not be accepted late.

Philosophy Department Grading Rubric:

A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

**Technology Guidelines:**

No electronic devices may be used during class time. This includes all portable computers, tablets, phones, blackberries, mp3 players, etc. When emailing your esteemed instructor(s), please reference PHL 130 in the topic heading, address the email (Steven, Dr. Brence, etc.), use complete sentences, proper punctuation and spelling, and sign your message. Please *do* email me if I can be of assistance, but do not contribute to the further deterioration of our capacity for language, or to basic standards of politeness and civility, in the process.

**Classroom Guidelines:**

Class attendance is required. You are expected to arrive before class begins, be respectful and polite to everyone in the room, and to stay until it ends. If you should need to leave before the end of class, please let me know before class begins.

**Accessibility:**

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if aspects of the instruction or course design result in barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Office of Accessible Education in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu

**Schedule:**

**Week 1 (Oct. 1 - 4):**

Plato - "Apology" (Defense of Socrates) - pp. 5-22.  
"Republic", Bk. I, pp. 31-51 and Bk. VII - pp. 122-127

**Week 2 (Oct. 8 - 11):**


**Week 3 (Oct. 15 - 18):**

Thursday, Oct. 17 - Essay #1 Assigned

**Week 4 (Oct. 22 - 25):**

Friday, Oct. 25 - Essay #1 Due
Week 5 (Oct. 29 - Nov. 1):


Week 6 (Nov. 5 - 8):

   Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, "The Pernicious Effects of the Unnatural Distinctions Established in Society"
   Thursday, Nov. 7 - Essay #2 Assigned

Week 7 (Nov. 12 - 15):

   Friday, Nov. 15 - Essay #2 Due

Week 8 (Nov. 19 - 22):

   Emma Goldman, "The Individual, Society and the State", "What I Believe"
   John Dewey, "Reconstruction as Effecting Social Philosophy"

Week 9 (Nov. 26):

   Frantz Fanon, "On Violence"
   Tuesday, Nov. 26 - Essay #3 Assigned

   Thanksgiving

Week 10 (Dec. 3 - 6):

   Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge* pp. 747-760.
   Nancy Fraser, "Rethinking Recognition"

Finals Week (Dec. 10):

   Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 3:15 Essay #3 Due

*I reserve the right to alter this schedule as may prove either necessary or beneficial. Any such changes will be announced in class and via email. Students are responsible for keeping track of such changes.*