

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PHIL 1180: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

(MnTC Goals 8 and 9)

This class provides an introduction to social and political philosophy. The basic question that social and political philosophy is concerned with is: How should we live together and what types of social and political institutions are best suited to create an environment where human beings can flourish? As such, the course takes up issues like social justice, the grounds and limits of governmental authority, rights, liberty, freedom, community, equality, and the like.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 04/08/2016 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Introduction to the field of ethics as a form of philosophical argument
2. Identification of moral dilemmas (e.g., conflicting duties or virtues)
3. Distinction between questions of individual and social morality and consideration of ethical theories which connect them to one another
4. Distinction between claims that express empirical facts and claims that express ethical principles/values, such as recognizing how such claims distinctly impact moral reasoning
5. Provide a basic introduction to fundamental ethical theories and moral reasoning. These can include, but need not be limited to:
 - a. Introduction to Moral Relativism, including its strengths and challenges
 - b. Introduction to Utilitarianism (e.g., Bentham and Mill), including its strengths and challenges
 - c. Introduction to Deontology (e.g., Kant), including its strengths and challenges
 - d. Introduction to Virtue Ethics (e.g., Aristotle), including its strengths and challenges
 - e. Introduction to Social Contract Theory (e.g., Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Rawls)
6. Present and explain the theoretical foundations and criticisms of the following ideas and concepts: Justice and Social Justice, Social Contract, Liberty/Freedom, Equality/Egalitarianism, Rights, Democracy, Our Duty to Others, and Governmental Authority
7. Examine a few particular cases and issues (either current or historical) and determine how the theories and concepts discussed in the course can be applied to these issues. Examples of cases and issues can include, but need not be limited to: civil rights, slavery, restitution, subjugation of women, redistribution, welfare, civil disobedience, human rights violations, just/unjust war, discrimination, etc.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Understanding of arguments and principles put forth by specific social and political philosophers (per Content area)
2. Understanding of the arguments and principles that ground various theories, principles, and concepts within the field of social and political philosophy (per Content area)
3. Written critique of at least one theory discussed in the course, identifying the logical and practical challenges implied by the position with regard to particular issues within social and political philosophy
4. Application of relevant central terms in the formal study of social and political philosophy (e.g., moral agent, justice, rights, liberty, freedom, equality, law, social contract, duty, government, etc.)
5. Analysis of current and historical case studies in which the student takes a position that is defended in terms of the theories discussed in class

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
3. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted