

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-12**

**Philosophy 2800F: History of Political Philosophy
Previously 235F**

**Fall Term 2011
Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30 – 11:30
SH 3315**

**Instructor: Dennis Klimchuk
StH 4140 Office Hours: Thursday 1-3
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DESCRIPTION

A survey of political philosophy in the Western tradition. We will read Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hume, Kant, Mill and Marx with a focus on the question: What justifies political authority? Themes and topics will include equality, freedom, property and, toward the end of the course, domination.

TEXTS

Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Oxford)

Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Hackett)

Rousseau, *On the Social Contract* (Hackett)

One of the remaining readings (an excerpt of an essay by Kant) will be put on 2 hour reserve at Weldon. The rest will be made available on the course WebCT page.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to acquaint students with several canonical texts and the core issues in the history of Western political philosophy. Through written assignments students will have the opportunity to develop skills in the interpretation and analysis of historical texts in philosophy.

REQUIREMENTS

Two short papers (5pp.) on assigned topics. Each will be worth 30%. The first paper is due October 17, the second November 28.

A **final exam** worth 40%. You will answer four essay-type questions from a list of eight, in two hours. I will give one question in advance, in a final review class.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.