

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

**Philosophy 3180G: Topics in the History of Political and Legal Philosophy:
Locke's Political Philosophy
Previously Philosophy 305G**

Winter Term 2011
Mon 9:30-11:30, Wed 9:30 – 10:30
UC 289

Instructor: Dennis Klimchuk
StH 4140 Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3
661-2111 x85758
klimchuk@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

A consideration of Locke's principal writings on political philosophy. Topics will include the justification and limits of political authority, the rule of law, and toleration.

TEXTS

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge)
Richard Vernon (ed.), *Locke on Toleration* (Cambridge)

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to work carefully through Locke's most important works in political philosophy. These works were enormously influential and in studying them we will also be considering some of the most basic enduring questions in modern politics. Students will be given the opportunity to develop skills in interpreting historical texts and in engaging core questions in political philosophy at an advanced level.

REQUIREMENTS

Two short papers (5-6pp.) on topics of your devising, at least one (and, if you choose, both) on a topic arising from the *Two Treatises of Government*, which we will cover first. The first paper will be due the week after we finish with the *Two Treatises*; the second will be due on our last class. Each will be worth 35%. I will be happy to meet with you to help you formulate your topics, and I strongly encourage you to run your topics by me even if you've settled on them on your own.

A **final exam** worth 30%. You will answer three essay-type questions from a list of six, 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.