

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

**Philosophy 4850F: Philosophy of Law: Property
Previously Philosophy 441F**

**Fall Term 2011
Wednesday 11:30 – 2:30
SSC 3006**

**Instructor: Dennis Klimchuk
StH 4140 Office Hours: Thursday 1-3
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klimchuk@uwo.ca**

DESCRIPTION

The first half of the course will be a survey of treatments of property from Aristotle through to the early modern period. Against that background we will consider a number of topics in the philosophy of present-day property law, including the structure of property rights and their limits, the basis and scope of claims to the property of others that may be raised by those in need, and the question whether taxation is a kind of theft.

TEXTS

There will be a reading package, available at In Print. Many readings will be available online.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are to work carefully through a number of key readings on property in the history of political philosophy and to consider a number of issues in contemporary law and politics that both turn on and inform our understanding of the foundation and limits of property rights. Students will be given the opportunity to engage critically at an advanced level with a wide variety of material, philosophical and legal, in seminar discussion and in written work.

REQUIREMENTS

Three short papers (5-6pp.) on topics of your devising, at least one on a topic arising in the first six weeks (the historical survey) and at least one on a topic arising in the second six weeks (the survey of contemporary issues). I encourage you to discuss your topics with me in advance. Papers will be due one week after the class on the material on which your paper is based. No outside research will be required. Each paper will be worth 30%, for a total of 90%.

Students must post **five** questions arising from the readings on the course WebCT page over the course of the term, and present those questions for discussion in class. Questions must be posted 24 hours before the class meets to discuss the material from which the question arises. This is worth 10% of your final grade.

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.