

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE SYLLABUS

POS 257 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

(same as PHI 257)

Credit Hours: 3 Lec: 3

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines competing conceptions of the just and ideal state, the nature civic virtue, the foundations of state authority, the relationship between economic and political systems, especially insofar as these systems either conduce to or resist the disenfranchisement among members of social groups, as well as what principles are needed to bring about social justice, uphold equality, and respect human rights. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of influential texts taken from both classical and modern works of political and social philosophy.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Elucidate the foundational principles, methods, virtues, and purposes of philosophical speculation and inquiry
- 1.2 Showcase the major theorists, ideas, and intellectual systems that have influenced and sculpted the landscape of political, social, and economic thought and reflection down through history
- 1.3 Compare and contrast competing conceptions on the nature, scope, and applicability of justice and human rights to real world scenarios, as well as how these competing conceptions have resulted in significant social and political change
- 1.4 Supply competing visions of and opportunities for critical reflection on the rights, duties, and virtues that are necessary for responsible citizenship
- 1.5 Fine-tune strategies for reading, analyzing, and evaluating complex ideas and issues contained within the philosophical literature

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 recognize and utilize conventional terminology and employ critical methodology in written compositions characteristic of the discipline
- 2.2 interpret relevant primary and secondary source texts as well as extract crucial information (e.g., main thesis, premises, assumptions, etc.) central to the claims being made in those texts
- 2.3 uphold in dialogue and debate the intellectual virtues and social conditions required for the project of genuine truth-seeking
- 2.4 describe the nature of philosophy as a discipline and social and political philosophy as a branch of that discipline.
- 2.5 articulate modern and classical conceptions of justice (e.g., distributive, retributive, rational ordering, fairness, etc.) as well as the moral theories that undergird them (i.e., social contract theory, natural law, utilitarianism, etc.)
- 2.6 identify specific ways in which economic and political systems are interrelated, as well as how these systems can either serve to create or resolve social inequities
- 2.7 argue on what basis governments and social institutions maintain legitimate authority in exercising power to coerce and when must they give way to liberty
- 2.8 defend a position on a controversial social or political issue (e.g., poverty, race, sexuality, gender, the national debt, etc.) and apply the theoretical principles of political and social theory in the defense that position
- 2.9 distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate uses of democratic authority, as well as the scope and nature of virtues that are uniquely incumbent on citizens in a democracy

3. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 3.1 Lecture & discussions
- 3.2 Multimedia & handouts
- 3.3 Thought experiments & case studies
- 3.4 Feedback on performance
- 3.5 Drills on reasoning and communication skills & strategies

4. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 4.1 Independent & in-class reading
- 4.2 Group discussions
- 4.3 Discipline specific written compositions and revisions
- 4.4 Skill practice exercises
- 4.5 Student presentations
- 4.6 Analysis of texts & arguments

5. EVALUATION

- 5.1 Exams and/or Quizzes
- 5.2 Participation
- 5.3 Argumentative & research essays and revisions
- 5.4 Student presentations

6. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 6.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course will be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 6.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.
- 6.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature—will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 6.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 6.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester. Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.
For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):
 - Submitting an academic assignment
 - Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
 - Attending a study group that is assigned by the school

- Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course