

Philosophy 237-01
Social and Political Philosophy
Mon./Wed./Fri. 1:00pm-1:50pm; Spring 2019
ASC 312

Instructor: Dr. Darin McGinnis

Office & Office Hours: Don 126B MWF 11am-12pm. T 12:30pm-1:30pm, and by appointment

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Course Description: This course examines the central issues of social and political philosophy. Topics may include the legitimacy of the state, the nature and purpose of political power and personal freedom, the concept of human rights (sic) and the role of civil disobedience and revolution. Representative authors include Aristotle, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, Rawls. Prerequisite: PHIL 115.

De te fabula narratur!

Classes should consist of an equal amount of lecture and seminar-style discussion. Students unprepared to discuss the work will be asked to leave the class, in the style of the old Leninist saying “He (sic) who does not work shall not eat.”

Primary Texts:

Marx/Engels: *The Marx/Engels Reader*

Additional readings online on Blackboard:

Zizek, “Welcome to the Desert of the Real”

Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History”

Fromm, “Introduction [to *To Have or To Be?*]

Arendt, “Tradition and the Modern Age” and “The Concept of History”

Horkheimer and Adorno, “The Culture Industry”

Young, “Democracy and Justice”

Dewey, “Philosophy and Democracy” and “Liberty and Social Control”

Mills, “The Racial Polity”

Jaggar, “Is Globalization Good for Women?”

Graded Assignments:

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| 1 Vocabulary Quiz | 10% of total grade |
| 5 Critical Summaries | 30% of total grade |
| 1 Contemporary Analysis and Presentation | 30% of total grade |
| 1 Final Paper (8-10 pages) | 30% of total grade |

Grading Scale:

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| A 100-94% | A- 93-90% | B+ 89-87% | B 86-84% | B- 83-80% | C+ 79-77% |
| C 76-74% | C- 73-70% | D+ 69-67% | D 66-60% | F 59% and below | |

Course Schedule and Homework: I expect you to read and study the assigned readings and complete any other homework *before* the class for which they are scheduled. Always be prepared to go over your readings or homework in class. Since we may need to move more quickly or more slowly depending on topics, adjustments to the schedule are very likely. You are responsible for keeping track of these changes to the syllabus and to the course schedule if they are announced. I also reserve the right to amend or change this syllabus as needed.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, the student will:

1. Develop familiarity with the philosophical and political environment of political philosophical thought, its methodology, and its application. (Understanding Level)
2. Distinguish and interpret the major claims made by the author of a philosophical text. (Understanding Level)
3. Examine and appraise the methods by which philosophers arrive at their conclusions in an original research paper. (Applying Level)

Conferences: I wholeheartedly encourage you to talk to one another and to me if you have any questions. Talk to me before or after class, email me, or stop by my office hours if you have any questions about the reading, quizzes, papers, exams or if you would like discuss other items relating to the class. If you cannot make my office hours, I can meet with you on any day should the need arise.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is essential to this course. For freshman and students on academic probation, no more than six (6) absences will be permitted. Exceeding these numbers results in a “Fa” grade – or failure. If students come into class late, it is their responsibility to check in with the professor before leaving the class to have the absence removed. Additionally, students who attend regularly always fare better than students who do not. If you keep up with readings and homework and attend class consistently, you will find the class much easier than if you miss assignments and try to catch up later. Please note that while I make every effort to stick to the schedule as printed, changes from time to time will be necessary. Not knowing about changes in the schedule therefore will not constitute an excuse.

Last Date to Drop the Course: The last day of the Add/Drop Period for this semester is Friday, 11 January 2019. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of a W is 26 March 2019.

Make-up Policy: Quizzes are due and assignments are accepted only on the day that they are due. The following three criteria together constitute grounds for an excuse: (1) the absence is due to serious illness or a death in the family; (2) you have a note from the Dean excusing the absence; (3) you have notified me in advance (this condition may be waived at my discretion for extenuating circumstances). If your absence does not meet these three criteria, do not approach me about making up missed work.

Academic Resource Center: The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a totally free academic-support service available to all enrolled Wheeling Jesuit University students and staffed almost exclusively by WJU students recommended for employment by WJU faculty. The ARC is located in Bishop Hodges Library and is open five days a week: Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Mondays-Thursdays 1:00-9:00 p.m. Please visit the ARC's website (the first listing under "Student Services" on the Cardinal homepage) to learn about the ARC's services (emphasizing writing, math, and the sciences) and to schedule appointments; appointments will no longer be available by phone.

Wheeling Jesuit University Disability Services: Wheeling Jesuit University offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by case basis with confidentiality in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within three years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Disability Services Director, located in Ignatius Hall Room G 24 or call 304-243-4484. Students are required to meet with the director to develop accommodation plans that they will present to their course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Students with disabilities that require specific housing accommodations must contact both the Director of Residence Life and the Disability Services Director. Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement. They must attend classes, complete course assignments, and fulfill all university requirements for their chosen field of study. It is up to students with disabilities to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success.

Academic Integrity: Students are advised that WJU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course (see www.wju.edu/studenthandbook). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of the Academic Vice-President.

Official E-mail: An official WJU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this WJU e-mail address.

Title IX Statement: Wheeling Jesuit University seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at WJU, please go to <http://wju.edu/titleix/>.

Tentative Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

January 7 – Introduction and Syllabus

January 9 – Elements of Social and Political Criticism

January 11 – Zizek, *Welcome to the Desert of the Real*, 1-3

January 14 – Zizek, 5-21

January 16 – Zizek, 21-32

January 18 – Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach,” 143-145

January 21 – Marx, “German Ideology,” 146-163

January 23 – Marx, 163-175

January 25 – Marx, 176-193

January 28 – Marx, 193-200 Critical Summary #1

January 30 – Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History”

February 1 – Benjamin

February 4 – Fromm, “Introduction: The Great Promise, Its Failure, and New Alternatives,” 1-7

February 6 – Fromm, 7-10

February 8 – Arendt, “Tradition and the Modern Age,” 17-29

February 11 – Arendt, 29-40

February 13 – Arendt, “The Concept of History,” 41-63

February 15 – Arendt, 63-86

February 18 – Arendt, 86-90 Critical Summary #2

February 20 – John Carpenter’s *They Live* (screened in class)

February 22 – John Carpenter’s *They Live*

February 25 – Marx, “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte,” 594-603

February 27 – Marx, 603-617

March 1 – Vocabulary Quiz

March 4 – 8 Spring Break; No Classes

March 11 – Recap

March 13 – Horkheimer & Adorno, “The Culture Industry,” 120-131

March 15 – Horkheimer & Adorno, 131-144

March 18 – Horkheimer & Adorno, 144-154

March 20 – Horkheimer & Adorno, 154-167 Critical Summary #3

March 22 – *Herbert’s Hippopotamus* (screened in class)

March 25 – Young, “Democracy and Justice,” 16-26
March 27 – Young, 27-40
March 29 – Young, 40-51 Critical Summary #4

April 1 – Dewey, “Philosophy and Democracy,” 38-47
April 3 – Dewey, “Liberty and Social Control,” 158-160
April 5 – Mills, “The Racial Polity,” 119-130

April 8 – Mills, 130-137 Critical Summary #5
April 10 – Jaggar, “Is Globalization Good for Women?” 298-307
April 12 – Jaggar, 307-314

April 15 – Presentations
April 17 – Presentations
April 19 – Easter Break; No Class

April 22 – Easter Break; No Class
April 24 – Presentations
April 26 – Review

*****FINAL: MON. 29 APRIL, 2:00PM-4:30PM*****