

## Syllabus PHIL099-01 (First Summer Session)

(DRAFT SYLLABUS, SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES)

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PHIL099, Social and Political Thought, is a course designed to familiarize students with some major works from the canon of political theory, supplemented with a few contemporary readings that expand on the canon, and sometimes offer perspectives on problems from outside the mainstream of political theory.

We meet **Monday through Friday**, for a **lecture** followed by a **discussion**. Both will be about an hour long, the lecture running from 10:45 - 11:45AM, the discussion running from 12:00 - 1:00PM. There will be a break in between. **Office hours** are daily from 10:00 to 10:45, just before class.

Given the compressed nature of the course, I have tried to limit readings to a **about 20 pages per day** (sometimes less, sometimes slightly more). **Fridays are non-reading days** (with the exception of 7/2), and will be devoted to **pop quizzes** and **other activities**, like peer reviewing outlines, a group exercise in D.I.Y. political theory, or a paper writing workshop.

The one big exception to the ‘about 20 pages per day’ is the novel by Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, which I encourage you to begin reading as soon as you have the book. It is not a very long or tough work, but you want to make sure you get a chance to finish it.

With the **exception** of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, **all readings will be provided digitally** via Canvas. If you cannot obtain *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, for whatever reason, please contact me and we’ll find a solution.

**Assessment comes in three forms: participation, pop-quizzes** (on the readings of that week) and a **paper** (4-5 pages in length). The paper will be on a topic relating to the readings up to the second week. **You can choose between two deadlines for the paper**. Either you submit the paper at the end of the fourth week, and retain the opportunity to improve (if necessary or desired) your paper on the basis of the provided feedback. Alternatively, you submit your paper at the end of the fifth week, without a chance to update it. Below is a breakdown of the grades and their weight:

Participation:	25%
Pop quizzes:	25%
Paper:	50%

### **Week I: Ancients and Origins**

- 6/7 Intro: what is Political Theory?
- 6/8 Aristotle, *Politics* (Book I)
- 6/9 Machiavelli *The Prince* (selections)
- 6/10 Machiavelli, *The Prince* (selections)
- 6/11 *Friday section: paper writing workshop*

### **Week II: The Social Contract and Citizenship**

- 6/14 Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Introduction, 5-8)
- 6/15 Hobbes, *Leviathan* (13-16)
- 6/16 Locke *Two Treatises of Government* (selections)
- 6/17 Constant, *The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns*
- 6/18 *Friday section: peer review outlines*

OUTLINE DUE BEFORE CLASS ON FRIDAY

### **Week III: Revolutions and Political Conflict**

- 6/21 Marx, *On the Jewish Question*
- 6/22 Marx, *The German Ideology* (selections)
- 6/23 Tocqueville, *Memoir on Pauperism* (part I)
- 6/24 Herzen, 'Consolatio' (in: *From the Other Shore*)
- 6/25 *Friday section: 'D.I.Y. Political Theory'*

### **Week IV: Nationalism and Persecution**

- 6/28 Benda: *The Treason of the Intellectuals* (author's foreword, Chapter I & II)
- 6/29 Zweig: *The World of Yesterday* (author's preface, chapter 1)
- 6/30 Arendt: 'The End of the Rights of Man' (in: *The Origins of Totalitarianism*)
- 7/1 MOVIE: *The Grand Budapest Hotel*
- 7/2 Shklar: 'Putting Cruelty First' (from: *Ordinary Vices*)

PAPERS DUE FRIDAY AT 11:59 PM

**Week V: From the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the 21<sup>st</sup>**

7/5 Berlin, *Two Concepts of Liberty* (section I, II, VI)

7/6 MOVIE: *I Am Not Your Negro*

7/7 Mishra, *Bland Fanatics* (chapter tbd.)

7/8 Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (whole book)

7/9 Last day: in conclusion

UPDATED PAPERS DUE FRIDAY AT 11:59 PM