

PHIL 420 Social Political Philosophy

Spring 2017

TThu 2:30-3:45 Anthropology 107

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Bowden Hall 110
Thu 1-2pm and by appointment

Course Description: This is an undergraduate seminar on social and political philosophy; more specifically, we will try to get conceptual clarification regarding our social and political world. The class is organized around three interrelated yet theoretically distinct socio-political concepts that will allow us to accurately diagnose our current realities: 1) Oppression; 2) The Social Contract; and 3) Coloniality and Postcoloniality. As we use these concepts to understand our contemporary world, we will read authors including, Iris Marion-Young, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Charles Mills, Carol Pateman, Angela Davis, bell hooks, Uma Narayan, María Lugones, Marilyn Frye, Étienne Balibar, Audre Lorde, and Enrique Dussel. Participants will recommend three additional readings to be added to our reading list. Seminar format includes informal lecture, participant presentations, and as much discussion as allowed by class size.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

	Date	Reading	Assignments Due
WEEK 1 <i>Introductions</i>	Tue Jan 10	Syllabus and Introduction to Course	
	Thu Jan 12	Frye, selections from "Oppression"	Reading Response 1
WEEK 2 <i>Oppression</i>	Tue Jan 17	Marion-Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Jan 19	Marion-Young, cont'd.	Reading Response 2
WEEK 3 <i>Oppression</i>	Tue Jan 24	hooks, "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression"	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Jan 26	hooks, cont'd.	Reading Response 3 Presentation #1
WEEK 4 <i>Oppression</i>	Tue Jan 31	Lorde 1, "Age, Race, Sex, Class" and 2, "The Master's Tools will never Dismantle the Master's House"	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Feb 2	Lorde, cont'd. +Marx, "Alienation of Labor"	Reading Response 4 Presentation #2

WEEK 5 <i>Oppression</i>	Tue Feb 7	NO CLASS – see CANVAS	Watch posted documentaries
	Thu Feb 9	Mills 1, “Ideal Theory as Ideology”	Reading Response 5
WEEK 6 <i>Social Contracts</i>	Tue Feb 14	Locke, selections from <i>Second Treatise on Civil Government</i>	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Feb 16	Rousseau, selections from <i>Discourse on Origin of Inequality</i>	Reading Response 6 Presentation #3
WEEK 7 <i>Social Contracts</i>	Tue Feb 21	Rousseau, selections from <i>The Social Contract</i>	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Feb 23	Mills 2, Introduction to <i>The Racial Contract</i>	Reading Response 7 Presentation #4
WEEK 8 <i>Social Contracts</i>	Tue Feb 28	Pateman, selections from <i>The Sexual Contract</i>	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Mar 2	Pateman cont’d; Selections from Mills 2, <i>The Racial Contract</i>	Reading Response 8 Presentation #5

MARCH 6-12 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

WEEK 9 <i>Social Contracts</i>	Tue Mar 14	Mills 2, cont’d	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Mar 16	Mills 2, cont’d. + ADD’L READING TBD	Reading Response 9 Presentation #6
WEEK 10 <i>Coloniality Postcoloniality</i>	Tue Mar 21	Dussel, selections from <i>Invention of the Americas</i>	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Mar 23	Balibar, “Is there a ‘Neo-Racism’?”	Reading Response 10 Presentation #7
WEEK 11 <i>Coloniality Postcoloniality</i>	Tue Mar 28	Mills 3, “Multiculturalism as Antiracism”	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Mar 30	Narayan, “Contesting Cultures”	Reading Response 11 Presentation #8
WEEK 12 <i>Coloniality</i>	Tue Apr 4	Lugones 1, “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System”	Reading and Preparation

<i>Postcoloniality</i>			
	Thu Apr 6	Lugones 1, cont'd + Fanon, selections from <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>	Reading Response 12 Presentation #9
WEEK 13 <i>Coloniality</i> <i>Postcoloniality</i>	Tue Apr 11	Lugones 2, "Playfulness, 'World-Travelling, and Loving Perception"	Reading and Preparation
	Thu Apr 13	Lugones 2, Cont'd.	Reading Response 13 Presentation #10
WEEK 14 <i>Conclusions</i>	Tue Apr 18	Left blank for adjustment	
	Thu Apr 20	Left blank for adjustment	
EXAM PERIOD	WED MAY 3	Final Paper due by Wednesday May 3rd, 11:59pm on Canvas	No in-class final exam