



**The Exeter College Summer Programme
at Exeter College in the University of Oxford
Contemporary Political Philosophy**

This course is a critical introduction to major debates in contemporary political philosophy and will include treatment of topics such as justice, globalization, citizenship and refugees. An additional theme will be the inclusiveness of liberal political theory. The course will consider objections from thinkers motivated by concern about social and political exclusion, notably based on the categories of gender, race and cultural difference.

Course Objectives

The main aim of this course is to introduce students to important concepts in contemporary political philosophy. More generally, the unit seeks to equip students with general research, work and expression skills that will help them in later employment. Among the generic skills this unit seeks to develop are:

- Comprehension skills: understanding the ideas and arguments presented in texts and in class discussions.
- Critical thinking skills: how to analyse and evaluate arguments.
- Problem-solving skills: how to apply theories and knowledge to the real world.
- Communication skills: how to express and present your ideas clearly and logically.
- Creative-thinking skills: how to develop new ideas and theories and support them with sound argument.

The course is designed to be multidisciplinary and is suitable for students of all disciplines who have a strong interest in philosophy, politics and political theory, and history of the twentieth century. There are no prerequisites and no previous knowledge of either philosophy or politics is required, but would be an advantage.

Teaching Methods and Assessment

- 12 x 1.25hr Lectures (15hrs)
- 6 x 1.25hr Seminars (7.5hrs)
- 4 x 1.25hr Tutorials (5hrs)

This course will be taught by lectures, seminars and tutorials. A short oral presentation on one aspect of one of the lecture topics will be required as part of seminar participation. It is essential that students participate in seminar discussions and thoroughly prepare for each lecture, seminar and tutorial. The emphasis will be on careful reading of philosophical works as well as on open discussion and peer learning. Lectures, seminars and tutorials are required, as is the reading set for each lecture, and the oral presentation. It is vital that you do all the set reading before each lecture in order to be able to follow and participate in discussions.

Final Assessment: An essay of no more than 3,000 words (40%), a final three-hour written examination (40%), oral presentation (10%) and participation in seminar discussion (10%).

Detailed Lecture List

1. Introduction: What is Political Philosophy and what has it to do with contemporary life?

Swift, A. *Political Philosophy: A Beginner's Guide for Students and Politicians* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013), pp. 1-19. Recommended further readings: pp. 22-40, 48-54, 95-142, 187-230.

2. Social Justice

Rawls, J. *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001), pp. 1-66, 153-157, 162-168.

3. Political Justice

Rawls, J. 'On the Idea of an Overlapping Consensus', *Oxford Journal for Legal Studies*, vol. 7, no. 1, (1987) pp. 1-25.

Rawls, J. 'Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical', *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 14, No. 3. (Summer, 1985), pp. 223-251.

4. Ideal versus non-Ideal Theory

Mills, C. 'Ideal theory as ideology', *Hypatia*, vol. 20, no. 3, (2005), pp. 165-184.

Valentini, L. 'On the Apparent Paradox of Ideal Theory', *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 17, 3, (2008), pp. 332-355.

5. The Libertarian View

Nozick, R. *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (New York: Basic Books, 1974), pp. 149-182.

Lomasky, L. 'Liberalism beyond borders', *Social Philosophy and Policy*, vol. 24, no. 1, (2007) pp. 206-233.

6. Feminist Critiques of the Liberal Paradigm

Okin, S. 'Political Liberalism, Justice, and Gender.' *Ethics* 105.1 (Winter 1994): 23-43.

Young, I. M. 'Taking the Basic Structure Seriously.' *Perspectives on Politics* 4.1 (March 2006): 91-97.

Abbey, R. 'Back Towards a Comprehensive Liberalism? Justice as Fairness, Gender, and Families.' *Political Theory* vol. 35, no. 1 (Feb 2007): 5-28.

7. Race Matters

Ai-Thu Dang, 'Eyes wide shut: John Rawls's silence on racial justice', *Documents de travail du Centre d'Economie de la Sorbonne* (2015.30)

Mills, C. W. 'Rawls on Race/Race in Rawls', *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 47 (2009), pp. 161-184.

Boettcher, J. 'Race, Ideology, and Ideal Theory', *Metaphilosophy*, 40, 2, (2009), pp. 237-259.

8. Embodied and Epistemic Injustice

Fricker, M. 'Epistemic Justice as a Condition of Political Freedom', *Synthese*, vol. 190, no. 7. (2013), pp. 1317-1332.

Ortega, M. 'Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant: White Feminism and Women of Color', *Hypatia*, Vol 21 no. 3 (2006), pp. 56-74.

Medina, J. 'Color Blindness, Meta-Ignorance, and the Racial Imagination', *Critical Philosophy of Race*, Vol. 1 no. 1, (2013) pp. 38-67

9. Global Justice

Nagel, T. 'The Problem of Global Justice', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, Vol. 33, (2005), pp. 113– 147.

Young, Iris Marion 'Responsibility and global justice: A social connection model', *Social Philosophy and Policy*, vol. 23, no. 1, (2006), pp. 102-130.

10 Refugees and Citizens

Arendt, H. 'The decline of the nation-state and the end of the rights of man', in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, (New York, Harcourt Brace, 1951), pp. 267-302.

McAfee, N. 'Humanity and the Refugee', *Social Philosophy Today*, Vol. 33, (2017), pp. 9-26.

11 Migrants and Citizens

Carens, J. 'Aliens and Citizens: The case for open borders.' *Review of Politics*, 49(2) (1987) pp. 251-73.

Wellman, C. H. 'In Defense of the Right to Exclude,' in C.H. Wellman and P. Cole, *Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is there a right to exclude?* (Oxford University Press, 2011) pp. 13-55.

12. Lies, Truth, and Politics

Arendt, H. 'Truth and Politics', *Between Past and Future*, (New York, Penguin, 1968), 223-259.

Arendt, H. 'Lying in Politics: Reflections on the Pentagon Papers', *Crises of the Republic* (1972), pp. 1-47.

Further Suggested Reading and Reference

Alcoff, Linda Martín, Anderson, L, and Taylor, P, (eds.), *Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Race* (New York, Routledge, 2017).

Christiano, T, and Christman, J, *Contemporary Debates in Political Philosophy* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2009).

Christman, J., *Social and Political Philosophy : A Contemporary Introduction* (New York : Routledge, 2002).

Dryzek, J., Honig, B., Philips, A. eds *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Goodin, R.E. and Pettit, P. eds *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997).

Kymlicka, W. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (2d.ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2002).

Evans, M, (ed.), *The Edinburgh Companion to Contemporary Liberalism* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2001).

Finlayson, A, (ed.), *Contemporary Political Thought: A Reader and Guide* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2003).

Freeman, Samuel ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Rawls* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Fricker, Miranda. *Epistemic Injustice, Power and the Ethics of Knowing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

- Medina, José. *The Epistemology of Resistance, Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
- Miller, D. *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- Mills, Charles. *The Racial Contract* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997).
- Pateman, C. *The Sexual Contract* (Stanford University Press, 1988).
- Rawls, J. *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971).
- _____. *Collected Papers* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999).
- _____. *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001).
- _____. *Political Liberalism*. Expanded Edition (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005).
- Simon, R.L. ed. *The Blackwell Guide to Social and Political Philosophy* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2002).
- Swift, A. *Political Philosophy: A Beginner's Guide for Students and Politicians* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001).