

PSC 104 ~ INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY  
Fall Semester 2015 \* Instructor: James Johnson  
Tuesday-Thursday 2:00-3:15 \* Gavett 202  
Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-5:00 \* Harkness 312 (x50622)

Teaching Assistant: Mathew Sweeten [msweeten@z.rochester.edu](mailto:msweeten@z.rochester.edu)  
Harkness 320- Office Hours: TBA

This is a first course in political theory. I will proceed on the assumption that students have had no prior exposure to the topics we will take up. Although most of the readings are from canonical texts we will work thematically. We will consider various basic political concepts, especially power and freedom, and explore how different political thinkers have, over time, defended differing conceptions for a variety of different reasons and purposes. We will consider various ways terms, say, of consent or procedural fairness or consequences to justify or criticize political institutions and practices. And we will consider how differing theories of human nature, and especially of human knowledge, inform competing conceptions of politics.

The course is, as the title suggests, introductory. It is aimed at first and second years students. Any student beyond the second year needs my explicit permission to enroll.

### Grading:

prepare answers to two or three questions. These will primarily address assigned readings from a particular segment of the course. However, each assignment will presume familiarity with all the previously assigned readings. And in each instance you will have at least one week to complete the assignment.

### The Fine (But Very Important) Print:

Policy on Attendance Class attendance is not optional. If you need to miss class for some reason (e.g., religious holidays, travel for varsity sports, etc.) please let me know. I will take attendance periodically.

Showing up is not enough. I expect that you will come to class prepared to do the assigned readings and formulate questions, objections, and reactions to them. I will provide plenty of opportunity for you to articulate those questions, objections and reactions.

Policy on Electronic Devices

## Statement on Academic Honesty

- \* Friedrich Nietzsche 1886. *Beyond Good & Evil* Vintage.
- \* John Dewey.

## Schedule

### September

1 Introduction  
3 Hobbes  
  
8 Hobbes  
10 Hobbes/Holmes  
  
15 Rousseau  
17 Rousseau  
  
22 Rousseau/Kant  
24 Marx  
  
29 Marx/Cohen

### October

1 CatchUp ~~D~~ **First Assignment Distributed.**  
  
6 Fall Break- No Class  
8 Mill  
  
13 Mill - **First Assignment Due.**  
15 Mill/Constant/Berlin  
  
20 Nietzsche  
22 Nietzsche

27 Dewey  
29 Dewey/Doherty

### November

3 Baldwin ~~D~~ **Second Assignment Distributed.**  
5 Baldwin/Spelman  
  
10 Arendt ~~D~~ **Second Assignment Due.**  
12 Arendt/Harcourt  
  
17 Foucault  
19 Foucault

24 CatchUp  
26 Thanksgiving ~~D~~ No Class

### December

1 Hayek  
3 Hayek  
  
8 Rawls  
10 Rawls ~~D~~ **Third Assignment Distributed**  
  
17 **Third Assignment Due**