Overview: The central normative problem of political philosophy is this: How, if at all, can political authority be justified? A wide variety of answers have been proposed. Some have said that political authority is founded on some sort of agreement; others that it is justified by good consequences; and others, of course, have denied that it is justified at all. This course will focus almost exclusively on the evaluation of various answers to this question. In addition, we will consider the nature and the proper limits of political authority, but these issues will be discussed only to shed light on the central concern.

*Marx for Beginners*, Rius (Pantheon Publishers) ISBN 0679725121  

Requirements:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five Quizzes</td>
<td>Drop Lowest One</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>Sign-up/TBA</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Essay</td>
<td>Due, Nov. 21</td>
<td>0% (but required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>Due, Dec. 8th in class</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Wed., Dec. 10, 2:00-3:20</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1 Sept. 29  
*Hobbes and Selfishness*  
Read: Hobbes p. 9-65 (Introduction), p. 118-130 (Chapter 6)  
"Freeloaders" Video

Week 2 Oct. 6  
*Hobbes and the Prisoner's Dilemma*  
Read: Hobbes p. 183-274 (Chapters 13-21)

Week 3 Oct. 13  
*Locke and the State of Nature*  
Read: Locke Chapters 1-5

Week 4 Oct. 20  
*Locke and Property*  
Read: Locke Chapters 5-19
Week 5  Oct. 27  Locke and Property Continued
Week 6  Nov. 3  Mill on Liberty
        Read: Mill Chapters 1-2
Week 7  Nov. 10  Mill and Free Speech
          Read: Mill Chapters 3-5
Week 8  Nov. 17  Marx and Exploitation: Critical Essay Due Nov. 21
          Read: Rius p. 1-143, The Communist Manifesto
Week 9  Nov. 24  Rawls v. Nozick
          Read: Rawls (in JED) p. 11-60, 61-102, "Greed" Video
Week 10 Dec. 1  Rawls v. Nozick: Read: TBA
Week 11 Dec. 8  *Term Paper Due —Monday, Dec. 8\textsuperscript{th} in class*
                *Exam — Wednesday, Dec. 10\textsuperscript{th}, 2:00-3:20*

Overview of Requirements:

1. Five Unannounced Quizzes (25%). These "pop" quizzes will test for knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. \textit{There will be no make-up quizzes given for any reason}. Format: multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.

2. Group Presentation (25%). Each student will participate in a group presentation/critique of an article/position/thesis that has been assigned as course material. Students will receive individual grades – thus minimizing the “free rider-problem.” A group presentation sign-up sheet will be distributed early in the term.

3. Exam (25%). The Final exam will be comprehensive. Questions will be constructed to test for understanding and comprehension of the material presented in lectures, discussions, and assigned course readings. A study guide will be distributed prior to the exam. Format: multiple choice, short answer, and essay.

4. Critical Essay (0% but required). Failure to complete and turn in a critical essay will result in the loss of a full letter grade on the term paper (e.g. an “A” paper would become a “B”). This 2-3 page essay is an exercise in philosophical exposition and critique. You will be asked to clearly present a position that has been defended in one of our readings along with the single most damaging problem for the view. If done correctly, the assignment is a nice "warm-up" for the term paper. \textit{Note:} A "Critical Essay Requirements" handout will be distributed in class and is included on the class website. No faxed or E-mail submissions will be accepted.

5. Term Paper (25%). This paper (4-10 pages) is to be a critical examination of one or more of the arguments presented in our readings. The assignment is intended to be primarily an independent piece of scholarship; some additional readings will probably be necessary, but comprehensive knowledge of the literature is neither expected nor desired. The point is to struggle through the issue you choose in a philosophically sophisticated way, making sense of the issues involved and the arguments that surround them, and defending a position which you find tenable on the basis of those arguments.
Papers handed in late will be marked down a letter grade for each day past the due date. Note: A "Term Paper Requirements" handout will be distributed in class and is included on the class website. No faxed or E-mail submissions will be accepted.

If you have any further questions about these class requirements please see me.

Scales and Criteria For Grading

When converting letter grades to points and total points to decimal grades the following scale will be used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Individual Assignment</th>
<th>Total Class Points</th>
<th>Decimal Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>400-370</td>
<td>400-385 = 4.0, 384-370 = 3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>357-346</td>
<td>357-354 = 3.4, 353-350 = 3.3, 349-346 = 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>345-330</td>
<td>345-341 = 3.1, 340-335 = 3.0, 334-330 = 2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>329-318</td>
<td>329-327 = 2.8, 326-324 = 2.7, 323-321 = 2.6, 320-318 = 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>317-306</td>
<td>317-314 = 2.4, 313-310 = 2.3, 309-306 = 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>305-290</td>
<td>305-301 = 2.1, 300-295 = 2.0, 294-290 = 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>289-278</td>
<td>289-287 = 1.8, 286-284 = 1.7, 283-281 = 1.6, 280-278 = 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>277-266</td>
<td>277-274 = 1.4, 273-270 = 1.3, 269-266 = 1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-63</td>
<td>265-250</td>
<td>265-261 = 1.1, 260-255 = 1.0, 254-250 = 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-60</td>
<td>249-238</td>
<td>249-244 = 0.8, 243-238 = 0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>237-0</td>
<td>237-0 = 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be no curves and no extra credit in this class. You will not be graded relative to your fellow students. What this means is that it is possible for everyone to get an A or an E or anything in-between. In order to pass the course you must complete all assignments with an additive percentage of 60% or higher. Your written work in this course will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Accuracy** of use of concepts and theories; in the presentation of the views of others.
2. **Clarity** of expression of your own views.
3. **Cogency or Strength** of the arguments that you present.
4. **Completeness** — every part of the assignment must be done and submitted.
5. **Insightfulness** displayed in your writing and presentation, where insightfulness refers to a complex attitude encompassing thought, imagination, sensitivity, and sensibility.

General Information

1. **Attendance and Participation.** Attendance is very important for doing well in the course. We will be discussing numerous cases, examples, beliefs, issues, and theories. Moreover the class builds upon itself — meaning that the cases, examples, and theories will come up again and again. Thus, attendance, participation, discussion, and asking questions, are all very important.

2. **Policy on Missed Quizzes, Make-up Work, Late Papers.** Papers and critical essays should be turned in on the due dates. If you see that you will not make a deadline, contact me immediately. An extension on the due date can be granted only if (i) you contact me in advance of the due date and (ii) you have a documented excuse of a very serious or emergency nature. Late assignments are penalized a letter grade for each calendar day late (e.g. a B paper that is one day late becomes a C paper). As noted above, there will be no make-up quizzes given for any reason. Students who miss
their group’s presentation and have a valid documented excuse will be allowed to make-up the assignment by completing a short (2-3 page) writing assignment.

3. **Cheating and Plagiarism.** University policy defines "cheating" as "the practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit — [cheating] includes any and all actions by a student which are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent and deceptive means." Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Students suspected of academic misconduct will be referred for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code of the Washington Administrative Code, and if found guilty are subject to sanctions. These sanctions range from disciplinary warnings (which encompasses a grade of zero on the assignment/exam in question) to dismissal from the University of Washington.

4. **Students with Disabilities.** If you are a disabled student, be sure to identify yourself to the University and the instructor so that reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation within the course can be made.

5. **Critical Thinking and Respect for Others.** In philosophy, critical thinking is a constructive activity aimed at seeking wisdom. I expect students to maintain a high level of professionalism in dealing with each other in the classroom. Taking class members seriously means listening carefully to what they say (including what they mean that may not be expressed). It means recognizing good ideas and effective contributions; it also means questioning ideas you do not understand or do not agree with. Evaluative comments should be presented in a considerate way, even if disagreement is warranted. *It is important to treat others with the respect that we would like for ourselves.*

6. **General Class Rules.** Disruptive behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. In general, see the Student Conduct Code. **Pagers and Cell Phones:** Turn them off while in class. **Eating:** Drinks are fine, no meals, dinners, or lunches. **Lateness:** excessive lateness (coming to class more than five minutes late) will not be tolerated – come to class on time and be prepared to begin class at the assigned time. **Talking in class:** except when recognized by the professor as having the floor, chatting, whispering, or talking are expressly forbidden. Such activity is disrespectful to whoever has the floor and undermines class discussion.