

## Course Description

At the simplest and broadest level, political philosophy addresses chiefly this two-part normative question: *Who gets what and says who?* The purpose of this course is to elucidate several theories which address at least part of this question. But before doing so, we begin by considering various foundational approaches. These approaches include consequentialism, contractarianism, perfectionism, and natural rights theory. With these approaches in hand, we turn to the first part of the question: *who gets what?* In answering this, we focus on various kinds of egalitarianism and libertarianism, and on the capability-approach. We then turn to the second part of the question: *says who?* In answering this, we question who gets to vote, whether we have a duty to obey laws, and whether voting is a justifiable way of exercising political authority in the first place.

## Grading

*Tests* – You will be assigned a single short-answer (250 word) essay question every week. Each essay will be worth 10% of your final grade. There will be no additional final examination for this class (though the last essay will be due during finals week). Each short-answer prompt will be made available on Thursday and will be due on Tuesdays at noon. You will be docked points for major grammar errors. ESL speakers should speak to me for special accommodations.

*Excuses* - I will grant extensions to an essay's due date for serious emergencies provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards, and for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Late essays will not be accepted after the day they are due.

### GRADING SCALE

100-94	A
<94-90	A-
<90-87	B+
<87-84	B
<84-80	B-
<80-77	C+
<77-74	C
<74-70	C-
<70-61	D
<61-0	F

## Readings

All readings are on the class's Canvas page.

## Contact

When you email me, be sure to include your full name and your student ID. Please email me only from your official UCSD email address. Office hours are on Mondays from 2 to 3 via Zoom (<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/5331227935>) or by appointment. My office location is: Ridge Walk Academic Complex, Bldg 1, Arts & Humanities, Room 0458.

## Psychological Services

CAPS is an indispensable resource for student life at UCSD. They provide free, confidential, psychological counseling and crisis services for registered UCSD students. CAPS is providing alternate ways of meeting, including video consultations. For more information, please visit [here](#), or contact 858.534.3755.

## Academic Integrity

Any suspected violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs.

Details on what counts as cheating can be found here: [academicintegrity.ucsd.edu](http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu). I will submit all papers to Turnitin, which will determine whether the author has plagiarized from other papers or from Internet sources.

## Special Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations due to a disability should provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please arrange to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations can be arranged. For further info, see: [disabilities.ucsd.edu](http://disabilities.ucsd.edu)

## Readings & Topics

*This schedule is tentative and is subject to change!*

### Foundations

#### Week 1

##### *Consequentialism*

“Utilitarianism and Consequentialism” – Dale E. Miller

##### *Contractarianism*

‘A Theory of Justice’, §5-6 – John Rawls

“Contractarianism” – Claire Finkelstein

#### Week 2

##### *Perfectionism*

“Perfectionism in Moral and Political Philosophy” (selections) – Steven Wall

##### *Natural Rights Views*

“When Trumps Clash: Dworkin and Proportionality” (selections) – Jacob Weinrib

‘Anarchy, State, and Utopia’, p.26-33 – Robert Nozick

### Who Gets What?

#### Week 3 – *Luck Egalitarianism*

“Luck Egalitarianism” – Zofia Stemplowska

“What Is the Point of Equality?” – Elizabeth Anderson

#### Week 4 – *Rawlsian Egalitarianism*

‘A Theory of Justice’, §3,4,8,11,12,16,17,20,22-25 – John Rawls

“Rawls on Justice” – Thomas Nagel

#### Week 5 – *Right-Libertarianism*

‘Anarchy, State, and Utopia’, p. 149-182 – Robert Nozick

“Wilt Chamberlain Revisited” – Barbara Fried

#### Week 6 – *Left-Libertarianism*

“Left-Libertarianism” – Peter Vallentyne

“Does Left-Libertarianism Have Coherent Foundations?” (skip §4, 10) – Mathias Risse

#### Week 7 – *Capability Approach*

“The Capability Approach (and Social Justice)” – Ingrid Robeyns

“How Politically Liberal Should the Capabilities Approach Want to Be?” – Rosa Terlazzo

### Says Who?

#### Week 8 – *Duty to Obey Democratically Elected Laws*

“Membership and Political Obligation” – Samuel Scheffler

#### Week 9 – *The Boundary Problem*

“The Boundary Problem in Democratic theory” – Sarah Song

#### Week 10 – *Epistocracy, and the Defense of Democracy*

“The Right to a Competent Electorate” – Jason Brennan

“Epistocracy is a Wolf in Wolf’s Clothing” – Justin Klocksien