

# Contemporary Political Thought<sup>1</sup>

## University of Georgia

### Spring 2016

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This course provides an overview of the main strands of contemporary political philosophy—*utilitarianism, liberal egalitarianism, libertarianism, Marxism, communitarianism, citizenship theory, multiculturalism, and feminism*—as well as more detailed attention to two seminal works of contemporary political thought: Iris Marion Young’s *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990) and Elizabeth Anderson’s *The Imperative of Integration* (2010).

## Instructor Contact

**Instructor:** Dr. Trevor Latimer  
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## Course Information

**Course Title:** Contemporary Political Thought  
**Course ID:** POLS 4030  
**Credit Hours:** 3.0  
**Semester/Year:** Spring 2016  
**Time/Location:** MWF / 12:20-1:10 / Peabody Hall 201

## Course Description

Major issues in contemporary political thought with attention to the theoretical roots of major contemporary ideologies.

## Prerequisite

POLS 1101

## Required Texts<sup>2</sup>

Iris Marion Young. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990 (any edition). ISBN: 0691023158, 0691152624, or 0691078327.

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<sup>1</sup>*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

<sup>2</sup>Inexpensive copies can be found here: <http://www.dealoz.com/>. If you prefer a Kindle edition, please contact me for pagination.

Will Kymlicka. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN: 0198782748.

Elizabeth Anderson. *The Imperative of Integration*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010. ISBN: 0691158118 or 0691139814.

## Attendance Policy

Required.

## Course Requirements

**Critical Essays** Three critical essays. ~1500 words each. Topics to be announced. Essays due at the beginning of class *in hard copy*.

**Paper #1** 20% of final grade. Due Friday, February 12, 2016.

**Paper #2** 25% of final grade. Due Monday, March 21, 2016.

**Paper #4** 30% of final grade. Due Monday, April 25, 2016.

**Reading Quizzes** Five reading quizzes given on randomly selected Fridays. 10% of final grade. Quizzes graded on {0, 1, 2} basis. Answers to quiz questions should be easy if you have kept up with reading. Material from all reading assignments up to quiz date is ‘fair game.’

**Final Exam** In class final exam with questions that can be answered in a short paragraph, designed to encourage class attendance. 15% of final grade. The final exam is Wednesday, May 4, 12:00-3:00pm.

## Reading Schedule<sup>3</sup>

### Week 1: Introduction & Utilitarianism [Jan. 11]

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 1-52.

**Monday:** Syllabus & Introduction

**Wednesday:** pp. 1-20

**Friday:** pp. 20-52

### Week 2: Liberal Equality [Jan. 18]

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 53-101

**Monday:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*Optional:* Letter From a Birmingham Jail, Lincoln’s Second Inaugural

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<sup>3</sup>Approximately 20 pages per class meeting.

**Wednesday:** pp. 53-75

**Friday:** pp. 75-101

### **Week 3: Libertarianism [Jan 25]**

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 102-165.

**Monday:** pp. 102-127

**Wednesday:** pp. 128-138

**Friday:** pp. 138-165

### **Week 4: Marxism [Feb. 1]**

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 168-207.

**Monday:** pp. 168-175

**Wednesday:** pp. 176-195

**Friday:** pp. 195-207

### **Week 5: Communitarianism [Feb. 8]**

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 208-283

**Monday:** pp. 208-228

**Wednesday:** pp. 228-244

**Friday:** pp. 244-283

### **Week 6: Citizenship Theory [Feb. 15]**

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 284-326.

**Monday:** pp. 284-299

**Wednesday:** pp. 299-312

**Friday:** pp. 312-326

### **Week 7: Multiculturalism [Feb. 22]**

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 327-376.

**Monday:** pp. 327-343

**Wednesday:** pp. 344-365

**Friday:** pp. 365-376

## **Week 8: Feminism [Feb. 29]**

Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 377-430.

**Monday:** pp. 377-386

**Wednesday:** pp. 386-398

**Friday:** pp. 398-430

## **Spring Break [Mar. 7]**

## **Week 9: Young [Mar. 14]**

Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, pp. 3-38.

**Monday:** pp. 3-14

**Wednesday:** pp. 15-24

**Friday:** pp. 24-38

## **Week 10: Young [Mar. 21]**

Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, pp. 39-65.

**Monday:** pp. 39-65

**Wednesday:** No class.

**Friday:** No class.

## **Week 11: Young [Mar. 28]**

Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, pp. 66-95.

**Monday:** pp. 66-76

**Wednesday:** pp. 76-88

**Friday:** pp. 88-95

## **Week 12: Young [Apr. 4]**

Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, pp. 156-225.

**Monday:** pp. 156-183

**Wednesday:** pp. 183-206

**Friday:** pp. 206-225

## Week 13: Anderson [Apr. 11]

Anderson, *The Imperative of Integration*, pp. 1-66.

**Monday:** pp. 1-22

**Wednesday:** pp. 23-43

**Friday:** pp. 44-66

## Week 14: Anderson [Apr. 18]

Anderson, *The Imperative of Integration*, pp. 67-134.

**Monday:** pp. 67-88

**Wednesday:** pp. 89-111

**Friday:** pp. 112-134

## Week 15: Anderson [Apr. 25]

Anderson, *The Imperative of Integration*, pp. 135-191.

**Monday:** pp. 135-154

**Wednesday:** pp. 155-179

**Friday:** pp. 180-191

## Week 16: Shelby [May 2]

**Monday:** Shelby, Tommie. “Integration, Inequality, and Imperatives of Justice: A Review Essay.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 42, no. 3 (2014): 253-85. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/papa.12034>.

## Evaluation & Grading

Letter	Grade	Letter	Grade	Letter	Grade	Letter	Grade
A	93-100	B	86	C	76	D	66
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72	D-	32
B+	89	C+	79	D+	69	F	0-59

## Academic Honesty

*As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.*

## Disability Statement

UGA is committed to the success of all learners, and we strive to create an inclusive and accessible online environment. In collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.uga.edu/>), we work with students who have documented disabilities to access reasonable accommodations and academic supports. For more information or to speak with a Disability coordinator, please call the Disability Resource Center at (706) 542-8719, TTY only phone (706) 542-8778.