

University of London MA Philosophy

Seminar Class Schedule 2001-2

Class: Political Philosophy

Day: Wednesdays Time: 6.00 Place: UCL

Convenor: Jonathan Wolff

Introduction

The course provides an opportunity for rigorous study of selected topics in contemporary political philosophy.

Aims and Objectives

The aim is that students should:

- Acquire a critical understanding of major issues in contemporary Anglo-American political philosophy.

The specific objective is that by the end of the course students should have:

- Read some of the main texts in contemporary political philosophy.
- Reflected upon and discussed some of the central problems of contemporary political philosophy.
- Developed the analytic skills by which they can come to evaluate proposed answers to the questions of contemporary political philosophy and to form their own views.

Teaching Methods

- Students will attend a 90 minute class, each week, for two terms: a total of 20 classes.

- For each week a particular reading in contemporary political philosophy is assigned. Students are expected to read that assignment with care and are encouraged to read recommended supplementary material.
- During each class the class tutor makes a presentation based on the assigned reading, and underlying and surrounding issues. Students are encouraged to join in the discussion, raising questions and points of their own, guided by the tutor.

Term 1: TBC

Topics:

John Rawls: *A Theory of Justice, Political Liberalism*

Robert Nozick: *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*

Communitarianism, Perfectionism

Term 2: TBC

Equality, Priority and Sufficiency (Dworkin, Parfit, Scanlon)

Political Obligation (A.J. Simmons) Democracy)

Assessment:

Students are required to sit a degree examination in this subject at the end of their final year. Students can pre-submit three essays of up to 2,500 words each in place of the exam. (Students can pre-submit in only one of their three papers.)

Tutorial essays/arrangements are determined within the student's own College.