

Spring 2-2-2003

PHIL 201E.01: Political Ethics

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Phil. 201: Political Ethics
Spring 2003
R.E. Walton, Prof.

SYLLABUS

Philosophy 201 is the companion course to Philosophy 200, which introduces students to classical ethical theory. Philosophy 201 *is not* a subsequent course in ethics for which Philosophy 200 is prerequisite; i.e., 200 and 201 do not constitute a course series. Philosophy 201 considers ethical issues from the point of view of the role of the individual considered as a citizen, while Philosophy 200 pays no particular attention to citizenship. The general aims of the two courses are the same. Thus, the subject matter of the two courses overlaps somewhat.

The fundamental problem to be considered in this course is that of the nature of *justice* and the characteristics of the political order in which it may be established. Our emphasis will be on the American political tradition.

TEXTS

The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States of America (Cato).

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (trans. M. Ostwald) (LLA).

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, etc. (LLA).

Jose Ortega Y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (trans. anon.) (Norton).

REQUIREMENTS

The first requirement for the course is that students carefully read all assignments from the texts, and come to class fully prepared to discuss them.

There will be a quiz given most weeks of the semester following the first, and possibly excepting the last week of classes. These quizzes will cover the material of the lectures of that week, and that of prior weeks as performance indicates such repetition to be advisable. Each quiz will include at least one brief essay topic. If it appears to be appropriate, a paper assignment will be made about the tenth week of the semester. There will be a comprehensive final examination required of all students. N.B.: The final examination cannot be rescheduled.

See the attached *Academic Policies* (part of the syllabus) for an explanation of grading standards and procedures.

Course Schedule

Topic	Text	Week
Basic Concepts and Principles...	<i>The Declaration of Independence</i>	I
Freedom and Equality...	<i>The Constitution of The U.S.</i>	I-III

Nihilism, Realism and Justice...	<i>Judgment at Nuremburg</i> (film)	IV
Freedom and Its Limits...	<i>On Liberty</i>	V-VII
Equality and its Limits...	<i>The Revolt of the Masses</i>	VIII-X
Character and Citizenship...	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bks. I-IV	XI, XII
Justice	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Bks. V, VIII, IX	XIII, XIV

Final Examination	Tues., May 13, 3:20-5:20 PM
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FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 18, 8:00-10:00