

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-18**

**Philosophy 2801F: Contemporary Political Philosophy**

<b>Term: Fall 2017</b> <b>T: 2:30 - 4:30</b> <b>Th: 2:30 - 3:30</b>	<b>Instructor: Dean Proessel</b> <b>Office Hours: T, Th, 1:30 – 2:30</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:dproesse@uwo.ca">dproesse@uwo.ca</a></b>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to contemporary political philosophy. Our main objective will be to understand, and to critically engage, the major schools of thought in political philosophy that have emerged in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. We will begin by looking at political philosophies associated with classical utilitarianism, and then examine one major alternative to utilitarianism—the conception of liberal egalitarian democracy, as developed by John Rawls. From there, we will examine the most significant critical responses to the liberal picture of democracy, including libertarianism, Marxism, communitarianism, feminism and multiculturalism. Throughout the course we will seek to understand what these schools of thought say about the political ideals of justice, freedom, equality and community.

**TEXTS**

Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2002)

**OBJECTIVES**

- Develop an understanding of the major schools of contemporary political philosophy, their differences and problems.
- Develop the ability to critically assess the plausibility and consistency of these political philosophies.
- Develop critical reading and writing skills by preparing two term papers.

**REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Paper	30%
Paper	30%
Final Exam	40%

## **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus

