



Dept. of Political Science



Faculty of Arts

POLI 515 & 615 Winter 2019  
Advanced History of Political Thought:

*The Idea of the Good*

*in Plato & Hegel*



Dr. Joshua D. Goldstein

Tuesday 4:00 PM – 6:45 PM



Social Science Tower, room 729

*Pre-requisite: POLI 310 or the consent of the Department*

**CONTACT INFORMATION & OFFICE HOURS:**

**Contact:** [joshua.goldstein@ucalgary.ca](mailto:joshua.goldstein@ucalgary.ca); Office ph. (403) 220-6090 (try e-mail first)  
**Office:** Social Science Building, room 728  
**Office Hours:** Tues. 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Wed. 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Thurs. 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
*Other times by appointment. Office hours subject to change and cancellation on occasion.*  
**Course Web Site:** <http://d21.ucalgary.ca>

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

What would the political community look like if the good—the highest end of life and that by which our actions, institutions, and relations are ruled, measured, and completed—did not dwell in some “beyond, [which is] supposed to exist, God knows where”, as Hegel says, but instead could be present in the world before us? An exploration of this possibility gripped the minds of two foundational thinkers in the history of Western political thought. Within the ancient world, Plato’s *Republic* offers us an idea of the good through a shared search for that pattern of the just community, a community that might reflect the order demanded by the very order and condition of existence of all things. Within the modern world, G.W.F. Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right* offers us an idea of the good through an attempt to comprehend the nature of freedom within the everyday institutions and ways of life of the actually existing and uniquely modern state.

Through a close reading of the entirety of these two provocative and epoch-making works—*The Republic* and *The Philosophy of Right*—we will explore what it would mean to bring, if we can, the good into our individual lives and the life of our community. We will be particularly interested in four large questions that run through these thinkers: (i) what is the nature of the good? (ii) in what ways can the political community approach or actualize the good? (iii) how are men/citizens to come to know this good? and; (iv)

**COURSE GOALS:**

Through the close reading of ancient and modern foundational texts in the history of Western political philosophy, in the course of this seminar students will become aware of ways in which we might conceptualize the good, the nature of political community, and the ends of human life.

In addition, through written assignments and in-class discussion, this seminar aims to achieve three goals:

1. *Informational*: to have students gain familiarity with the arguments and positions of the thinkers and texts covered;
2. *Analytical*: to have students be able to analyze the arguments for, explore the implications of, the thinkers' attempts to answer the nature of the good, describe its relationship to the political community, and fashion strategies for the political education of future or existing citizens; and,
3. *Critical*: to have students learn to craft carefully articulated and defensible positions—both interpretatively within the texts and thematically with regard to the three overarching questions mentioned above—and to defend that position using the intellectual resources gained in the course.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:**

The requirements for this seminar are a (1) shorter, first essay on the first thinker, (2) a second, longer essay that allows students to refine and build upon their first essay through an engagement with both works covered in the course, and (3) class participation. An overview of each of these requirements is given in the table below. These essays are interpretative and analytical; they are not research essays.

Written assignments are due on D2L and only the quality of their ideas, as articulated through the written word, will be evaluated. A more detailed information sheet for the written assignments will be made available on D2L.

**OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS**

WHEN*	WHAT	WORTH	LENGTH**	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Friday of Week 7	First, shorter Essay	25% of final grade	2000–2500 words (about 8 pp.);	An interpretative essay on some aspect of Plato's <i>Republic</i> .
Friday of Week 13	Second, longer Essay	45% of final grade	4500–5500 words (about 16–20 pp.)	An interpretative essay on some aspect of Plato's <i>Republic</i> and Hegel's <i>Philosophy of Right</i> . You are strongly encouraged to have the second essay build upon work done in the first essay, e.g., by bringing your work on Plato into dialogue with Hegel.
On-going	Class Participation	30% of final grade	Not Applicable	The course will use a slightly modified version of the University of Chicago Method for seminars, to be discussed in class.
* Due at 11:59 pm on D2L; 2% per day late penalty, including weekends.				
** POLI 615 students allowed up to 50% of the max. length				

The following grading scheme will be used:

<b>A+ = 95–100</b>	<b>B+ = 77–79</b>	<b>C+ = 67–69</b>	<b>D+ = 57–59</b>
<b>A = 85–94</b>	<b>B = 73–76</b>	<b>C = 63–66</b>	<b>D = 50–56</b>
<b>A– = 80–84</b>	<b>B– = 70–72</b>	<b>C– = 60–62</b>	<b>F = 0–49</b>

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

You are required to purchase the *specific editions* of the books listed below. All discussion will reference these specific translations. You are of course free to consult other traditions as well as the texts in the original language.

1. G. W. F. Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* (ed. Allen W. Wood) (trans. H.B. Nisbet) (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1991).
2. Plato, *The Republic of Plato*, 2nd edition (trans. Allan Bloom) (HarperCollins Canada / Basic Books, 1991).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

On the next page you will find a schedule of readings and classes for the course. You must have read the required material before coming to class.

Please note that the following schedule and assigned readings may be changed as circumstances arise.

## READING SCHEDULE

*Subject to modification if required by the circumstances*

☞ I. <i>Introduction</i> ☞
Jan. 10 — Week 1 — Introduction & Context: <i>No Readings Required</i>
☞ II. <i>Plato on the Good &amp; the Cosmos</i> ☞
Jan. 17 — Week 2 — <i>The Republic</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Books I & II
Jan. 24 — Week 3 — <i>The Republic</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Books III & IV
Jan. 31 — Week 4 — <i>The Republic</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Books V & VI
Feb. 7 — Week 5 — <i>The Republic</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Books VII & VIII
Feb. 14 — Week 6 — <i>The Republic</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Books IX & X
<i>Feb. 21 — Reading Week</i>
☞ III. <i>Hegel on the Good &amp; the Community</i> ☞
Feb. 28 — Week 7* — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Preface, Pp. 9–23; <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction, §§ 1–33 * First Paper Due On Week 7
Mar. 7 — Week 8 — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Part One: Abstract Right, §§ 34–104
Mar. 14 — Week 9 — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Part Two: Morality, §§ 105–141
Mar. 21 — Week 10 — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Part Three: Ethical Life: Introduction, §§ 142–157; <input type="checkbox"/> The Family, §§ 158–181
Mar. 28 — Week 11 — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society, §§ 182–256
Apr. 4 — Week 12 — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> The State (Pt. 1) §§ 257–286
Apr. 11 — Week 13* — <i>Phil. Of Right</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> The State (Pt. 2), §§ 287–320 <input type="checkbox"/> External Relations & World History, §§ 321–360 * Final Paper Due On Week 13

## IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

### Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>

*Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.*

### Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

### Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

### Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

### Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

### University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

### Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be

found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):** FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

**Evacuation Assembly Points:**

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Important Contact Information:**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

**Campus Mental Health Resources:**

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>