Contemporary Political Philosophy (PSC 308.001)
Stephen F. Austin State University—Fall 2018
MWF 9:00-9:50, F374
Instructor: Dr. Alan Baily
Office: LAN 137
Office Hours: MW: 11:00 12:00 pm; TR: 1:30-2:30; Friday: by appointment
Office Phone: (936) 468-2363
Email address: bailyai@sfasu.edu

I. Course Description: Contemporary political thought since 1900. The course focuses on critiques and analyses of the state; debates about liberty, equality, justice, and oppression; and recent discourses including feminism, the “politics of difference,” multiculturalism, contemporary liberalism and globalism. Prerequisites: PSC 141 and PSC 142.

II. Course Objectives: This course is an introduction to key trends in intellectual discourse about politics in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. In addition to getting acquainted with these discussions, we shall focus on the learning outcomes and objectives listed below.

Program Learning Outcomes: In any given semester, one or more of the following Program Learning Objectives (PLO) for Social and Behavior Sciences may be assessed.
- PLO#4 – “The student will differentiate a range of political systems and/or perspectives.”

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course, you should be able to:
- Analyze the concept of the state from a variety of perspectives;
- Understand contemporary debates over such values as liberty, consent, natural rights, social rights, egalitarianism and cosmopolitanism;
- Engage contemporary debates about justice and citizenship; and
- Evaluate the influence of political and social arrangements on contemporary life.

III. Texts: The following books are required in this class; they are (or will be) available at the university bookstore:

Goodin and Petit, eds., Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology, 2nd edition
(Blackwell) ISBN: 9781405130653


IV. Assignments and Grades: Your grade in this course depends upon your performance of the below:

1. Two Take-home examinations: a mid-term and a final, each worth 20% of your semester grade [40%].

2. Response Papers: There are five occasions to hand in a response paper. I will count four response papers towards your grade, making each worth 12.5% course credit [50% total]. This means you have one amnesty to use at your discretion. Should you submit all five papers, I will drop your lowest grade. Each paper must be 4-6 pages in length (typed, double-spaced and in 12-point TNR or a similar font).
3. Question Cards & Discussion: When readings have been assigned, you are expected prepare an index card with a question or (thoughtful) comment about the readings, by the beginning of class. Also, each student is expected to present at least one response paper to the class during the semester [10%].

Final grade distribution is as follows:
A=90-99, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=65-69, F=64 and below

V. Attendance Policy and Decorum: Attendance is required; roll will be taken upon occasion. Since mutual respect and consideration are keys to success in any group endeavor, I expect the highest standard of conduct in our class. To display respect for yourself and your fellow students, please silence and put out of sight all laptops, cell-phones, blackberries, ipods and other mobile electronic communication or entertainment devices. Please do not pass notes or exchange whispers, either! If you must make a call (or a text) during class-time, kindly exit the classroom to do so, and do not return (you will be counted absent for the day) unless you have an exceptionally good excuse (e.g. a documented emergency, death in the family, etc).

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

VI. Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp
**VII. PSC 308 Calendar** (This calendar is *tentative* and I reserve the right to alter it.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction. Review Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>No Class Meeting: Read Goodin &amp; Petit, 1 (Skinner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>No Class Meeting: Goodin &amp; Petit, 2 (Scott)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 3 (Gauthier)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 4-6 (Pateman, Taylor)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 8-9 (Sustein, Elster)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 10-11 (Cohen, Phillips)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td><em>Paper 1 Due</em></td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 12 (Rawls)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 13 (Nozick)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 14-15 (Barry, Sandel)</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>9/21</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 16-17 (Young, Waldron)</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>9/24</td>
<td><em>Paper 2 Due</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 18-19 (Hart, Dworkin)</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 20-21 (Shue, Thomson)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 22-23 (Kymlicka, Beitz)</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 24-25 (Berlin, Taylor)</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 26-28 (Skinner, Cohen, Galston)</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>10/8</td>
<td><em>Paper 3 Due</em></td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 30-31 (Williams, Parfit)</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 32-33 (Sen, Walzer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>Goodin &amp; Petit, 34-35 (Minow, Arneson)</td>
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**W** 10/17  *Midterm Due*

**F** 10/19  Goodin & Petit, 36 (Foucault)

**M** 10/22  Goodin & Petit, 37 (Wasserstrom)

**W** 10/24  Goodin & Petit, 38-39 (Okin, Gordon)  *Drop Day*

**F** 10/26  Goodin & Petit, 40 (Jones)

**M** 10/29  *Paper 4 Due*

**W** 10/31  *CuZ* 1-7

**F** 11/2  *CuZ* 8-11

**M** 11/5  *CuZ* 12-14

**W** 11/7  *CuZ* 15-18

**F** 11/9  *CuZ* 19-20

**M** 11/12  *CuZ* 21-24

**W** 11/14  *CuZ* 25-27

**F** 11/16  *CuZ* 28-Coda

**M** 11/19  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**W** 11/21  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**F** 11/23  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**M** 11/26  *Paper 5 Due*

**W** 11/28  Goodin & Petit, 41-42 (Anscombe, Margalit & Raz)

**F** 11/30  Goodin & Petit, 43-44 (Rawls, Luban)

**M** 12/3  Goodin & Petit, 45 (Held)

**W** 12/5  Goodin & Petit, 46-47 (Keohane, Pogge)

**F** 12/7  Goodin & Petit, 48 (Barry)
FINAL: Due Friday December 14th, by noon

IX. Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54):
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

X. Students with Disabilities:
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.