PHIL 1312: Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy  
Dr. Cory Wimberly, Fall 2017  
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Office Hours: Thursday 12:15-2:15pm, ELABS 363  
Tuesday electronically, time TBA

Textbook and/or Resource Material  
All readings and assignments will be available online.

Course Description and Prerequisites  
This course will cover the basic social and political philosophies and questions that people commonly  
encounter today. Here are some of the ideas and questions we are going to tackle:  
• What is the role of the state in producing good and virtuous citizens?  
• Who should rule?  
• What is freedom?  
• What are rights?  
• What is the philosophy guiding the Republican party?  
• What is the philosophy guiding the Democratic party?  
• What is libertarianism?  
• What political philosophies guide the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights?  
• What are Marxism and Communism?  
• How do racism, sexism, and classism impact society? What political options are there for mitigating their  
negative impacts?

What You Will Learn in this Course:  
When you are finished with this course, you should be able to:  
• State the basic tenets of: liberalism, libertarianism, republicanism, communism, Plato's politics, Aristotle's  
politics.  
• Identify the political philosophy guiding popular politicians and individuals in the mass media.  
• State the reasons why you prefer a particular political philosophy over other popular choices.  
• Offer concise reasons why you agree or disagree with the social or political stance of popular politicians,  
media figures, and friends.  
• Articulate the different social and political values present in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.  
• Give basic understanding of race/racism, gender/sexism, and class/classism.  
• Be able to translate a political philosophy into concrete action.

Core Curriculum Requirements  
This course satisfies the 040 Language, Philosophy, and Culture core requirement.

Grading Policies  
Grades will be assigned as follows: A 100-90, B 89.99-80, C 79.99-70, D 69.99-60, F 59.99-0.  
The following items will make up the final grade:  
Weekly Reading Quizzes  20%  
Weekly Lecture Quizzes  20%  
Controversy Essay  20%  
Service Learning Project Presentation  20%  
Final Essay  20%

Office Hours  
Office hours will be held in person and online. Normal in person office hours will be held Thursdays  
12:30-2:15pm. Tuesdays, I will be available for 1 hour, time TBA based on when most students are available.  
You can click on the link on your Blackboard course page, ‘Online txt Office Hours’ for text/chat based help  
during this time. You can also reach me during the same time at Google Hangouts. There we can text chat or
do video chat. Simply invite professorwimberly@gmail.com to text or video chat. Further instruction will be given in class.

Attendance
Students are allowed three absences. Each absence beyond three will result in the loss of 10% of the final grade. Tardiness, at the instructor’s judgement, can be counted as absences. Normally, the only absences that will be excused are these: officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence for approval. Students should contact the professor if they believe their case merits special consideration (e.g. long term hospitalization). Otherwise, students should plan wisely with the three absences they are granted for sickness, family emergencies, and car problems.

Electronic Devices
No electronic devices will be permitted in this class. This includes not only the use of electronic devices but also the visible, audible, or implied existence of them. Any evidence (including audible or visible) of electronic devices will result in a marked absence from the course. Remember that each absence over 3 will result in the loss of 10% of the final grade.

UTRGV Policy Statements:
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Fall 2017 Module 1 Oct. 5 – Oct. 11
Fall 2017 Module 2 Nov. 29 – Dec. 5
Fall 2017 (full semester) Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be
found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.