



**Gifted LearningLinks Program
Course Syllabus**

**Instructor name: Jim Kinsella
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Course Title: What is Just? Introduction to Political & Moral Philosophy

Session Date: 2011-2012 Academic Year, monthly enrollment

Course Description:

Good and bad, right and wrong, virtue and vice – these are the central concepts related to questions about morality. Students examine the wide spectrum of scholarly thought across civilizations from ancient Greece to the present day as it relates to individuals, the state and the relationships among them. An analysis of justice and politics prepares students for future coursework in political science, philosophy and law.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- a. *Know a wide spectrum of scholarly thought, across civilizations, from ancient times to our contemporary world, concerning political and moral philosophy relating to the individual, the state and relationships between them*
- b. *Understand how political and moral philosophy address the nature, rights and responsibilities of the individual and the state, and their intersection with, or relevance to, justice*
- c. *Be able to engage in a deeper analysis of justice and politics as they relate to the individual and the state, and to apply this knowledge and understanding to reach their own answers to contemporary questions that have a distant genesis and enduring history*

Resources and Materials:

- Cahn, S. (ed.), Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy (Oxford, 2001) ISBN 0195140915 or 978-0195140910
- Goodin, R. and Pettit, P., Contemporary Political Philosophy, 2nd ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2008) ISBN 1005130652 or 978-1405130653

Note: *While a staff member (which includes but is not limited to instructors, teaching assistants, residential staff, office staff) may use or refer students to third-party web sites for instructional purposes, s/he is required to review thoroughly any such web sites for inappropriate content before referencing them. This includes clicking on all links contained in any such web site, reviewing the materials contained on every page within a web site, and ensuring that the web site does not provide links to other inappropriate web sites. If there is any doubt about whether something is appropriate, a staff member is instructed to err on the side of caution and not use the web site or check with a CTD supervisor. If a referenced third-party web site is later determined to contain inappropriate content, the staff member may be subject to discipline.*

Schedule:

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 1	Orientation to Online Learning Early Hebrew Conceptions of the Individual and the state	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 1</p> <p>(1) Go to http://www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/Hebrew_Index.htm (2) Read Genesis 1:24-28; 2:5-23; 17:1-14; Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-23; 32:1-35; 33: 1-3 (Click on the relevant chapters and look for the enumerated verses.)</p>	One question that arises from your reading of the excerpt from Genesis and one question that arises from your reading from Exodus	No more than 1 page (Double-spaced, 11 pt font) summarizing how the Hebrews conceived of Man, the Hebrew god, and the relationship between them (based on the language of the text and your interpretation of and/or extrapolation from the text)

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Week 2	Socrates and Plato	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 2</p> <p>(1) Read R. Kraut's <i>Plato Introduction</i>, in Cahn, pp. 1-5 (2) Read Plato's <i>Crito</i>, in Cahn, pp. 22-31</p>	<p>Answer the following question: Does Socrates support the quality of men and democratic rule? Explain, with specific reference to relevant language in the reading(s)</p>	<p>In no more than ¾ to one page (double-spaced, 11 pt font), explain whether you agree or disagree with the reasoning Socrates offers in support of carrying out the sentence against him</p>
Week 3	Plato, Aristotle and Later Ancient Greek thought: The Epicureans and Stoics	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 3</p> <p>(1) Go to www.classicreader.com/book/1788/29 and read Plato's <i>The Republic, Book VI</i>, Plato – Glaucon, from fourth paragraph (“And how can we rightly answer that question?” to end of excerpt (“And to men like him... intrust the State.”) (2) Go to www.literaturepage.com/read/treatiseongovernment-172.html and read Book VII, Chapters 4-9 of Aristotle's <i>Politics</i></p>	<p>One question that arises from your reading of the excerpts from Plato and one question that arises from your reading of the excerpt from Aristotle</p>	<p>In no more than 1-1/2 to 2 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt font), compare Aristotle's view of politics and the state as expressed in the excerpt from <i>Politics</i> with Plato's view as expressed in the excerpt from <i>The Republic</i>. How do their approaches differ? What similarities can you identify?</p>

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Week 4	Eastern Thought: Confucious, Lao Tzu, Han Fei Tzu	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 4</p> <p>(1) Go to http://literary.group.tripod.com/id29.html and scroll down to the excerpted passages from the <i>Analects of Confucius</i> and the <i>Tao Te Ching</i> of Lao Tzu</p> <p>(2) Go to http://www.applet-magic.com/legalism.htm and read the material on Legalism</p>	Summarize in no more than 6-8 sentences total, the philosophies of Confucius, Taoism, and Legalism	Participate in web-based class discussion comparing views of justice, the individual and the state in ancient Greek philosophy and ancient Chinese philosophy (date and time TBD based on availability of class members)

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Week 5 - 6	Christian – Medieval Thought: Augustine, the Scholastics and Aquinas	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Read pp. 296 – 335 in Cahn</p>	Briefly explain (i.e. about 1 or 2 paragraphs) why the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages profoundly affected how one may have viewed the individual, the state and justice	In no more than 1-1/2 to 2 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt font), compare Augustine’s view of the individual and the state, as expressed in the excerpt from <i>City of God</i> with Aquinas’ view as expressed in the excerpt from <i>Summa Theologiae</i>
Week 7-8	A Fundamental Challenge to the Power of the Church and How a Prince should Rule: Machiavelli	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Read Machiavelli’s <i>The Prince</i>, in Cahn, Chapters XV-XXV, pp 348-359</p>	Briefly explain (i.e., in about 1 or 2 paragraphs) why Machiavelli’s <i>The Prince</i> was viewed as a fundamental challenge to the power of the Roman Catholic Church	In no more than 1 to 1-1/2 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt font), identify two short passages (e.g., a sentence or a group of sentences) that are most interesting to you, and explain why.

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Week 9-10	Differing Views from the Late Renaissance and Enlightenment on the Nature of People, and the States such Nature Prescribes: Grotius, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Smith	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 7</p> <p>See “Assignments” page on course website.</p>	See “Assignments” page on course website	Participate in web-based class discussion comparing views of justice, the individual and the state amount the authors indicated (date and time TBD based on the availability of class members)
Week 11	Continuity and Change in considering the Individual and the State: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and M. L. King Jr.’s Letter from a Birmingham City Jail	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 8</p> <p>(1) Read pp. 1168 – 1170 and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution on p.1170 in Cahn (2) Go to http://www.stanford.edu/group/King/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf and first click on the link and read “view the statement that prompted this letter”; then go back to the website noted above and read <i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i></p>	See “Assignments” page on course website	In no more than 1-1/2 to 2 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt font), explain how the Declaration of Independence and Preamble to the U.S. Constitution support M. L. King Jr’s arguments in the <i>Letter</i>

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Week 12 - 13	Reaching the Workers' Paradise through the Dialectic of History: Marx and Engels	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 9</p> <p>Read pp. 848-859 (to "III") in Cahn</p>	One question that arises from your reading of the excerpt from <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	In no more than 1-1/2 to 2 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt font), compare and contrast Locke's and Smith's views of the individual and the state with that of Marx and Engels
Week 14	Modern Thought on Justice, Rights, and Liberty: Rawls	<p style="text-align: center;">Assignment 10</p> <p>(1) Listen to "Philosophy talk" radio broadcast on John Rawls and read "What is It?" and "Listening Notes" at http://www.philosophytalk.org/pastShows/JohnRawls.html</p> <p>(2) Read John Rawls' <i>Justice as Fairness</i>, in Gooding and Pettit, pp. 185-196</p>	Summarize in no more than 1-2 paragraphs, the radio broadcast on John Rawls	<p>In no more than 1-1/2 to 2 pages (double-spaced, 11 pt font), summarize Rawls' views on justice, individual rights and liberty</p> <p>Speak with the instructor via telephone, regarding a summation of the course. E-mail me your available days and times</p>

	Topic/Focus	Activities & Reading Assignments	What do I need to post to the Discussion Board?	What do I need to turn in?
Week 15	Existentialism in Modern Government	<p align="center">Assignment 11</p> (1) Investigate http://batr.org (2) Read http://batr.org/existentialism.html	What is Existentialism? How does it relate to today's moral and social philosophy especially with regards to the government?	Summarize your feelings in a 2 page paper. Be sure to support your feelings with examples.
Week 16	Oppression	<p align="center">Assignment 12</p> Read Gooding and Pettit, pp. 539-620	Is the government oppressive or enabling?	Summarize your feelings in a 2 page paper. Be sure to support your feelings with examples.
Week 17	International Affairs	<p align="center">Assignment 13</p> (1) Read Gooding and Pettit – Just War: The Case of World War II Anscomb 623 (2) The Law of the People – Rawls 649 (3) Lao Tzu http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/artofwar.htm#1	Is War Just? Are there Rules to a Just War?	Summarize your feelings in a 2 page paper. Be sure to support your feelings with examples.
Week 18	Beyond Good and Evil	<p align="center">Final Assignment</p> (1) Neitsche Cahn 1023-1031 (2) The book of Revelation http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/revelation/intro.htm (3) Chapter 21 http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/revelation/rerevelation21.htm#v1 and Chapter 22 http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/revelation/revelation22.htm * Be sure to read the footnotes.	Based on the readings (especially this week's readings), discussions in this class and your personal experiences, What is Just? What is Socially and Politically Moral?	Summarize your feelings in a 2 page paper. Be sure to support your feelings with examples.

Student Evaluation and Grading Policies for Credit Courses Only:

a. CTD Grading scale

A+ 97-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Below 60
A 93-96	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Instructor Biography:

Mr. Kinsella taught at University High School in Normal Illinois for 14 years. He currently spends almost all his time working with Illinois Virtual School where he wears many hats, Senache, Coordinator of instructors, lackey, warehouseman, and teamster. IVHS and the students, teachers, and administrators involved in it have become like a family to him. At U High, he taught U.S Studies, Survey of Philosophy, and AP European History. For IVS, he taught AP Government, Civics in Cyberspace, U.S. Studies, and AP European History. He currently teaches AP European History.

Mr. Kinsella reads a lot and is on the computer almost all the time as you will find out! He also has traveled on motorcycle in all 50 states!

Mr. Kinsella holds an MA in Humanities from Loyola University in Chicago. He was awarded the Excellence in Online Teaching Award for 2003. Finally, he has been teaching for CTD since May of 2009.

His hope is that you find this course and the stories it contains as interesting as he does.

Contact Information:

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