



# Description of Course Requirements

## 1. Weekly Reflections (10%)

Most weeks, you will answer one of two questions about the readings. Answers are to be approximately 250 words and are to demonstrate that you have done the reading and have given some thought to the question posed.

Note that this component of the course has a special grading scheme. You may earn a maximum of four marks per reflection, but you should not think of this as “out of four.” Three marks will be assigned on the evidence of thoughtfulness to the question posed. An additional mark may be earned if one participates in the tutorial in which it is due. Once you have received twenty points for this component of the course, you are no longer required to submit further reflections. Those who have not received twenty points by the end of the term will receive a grade equal to their total points out of twenty reduced to out of ten.

Note that these marks are like participation marks, and as such there is no opportunity to make them up. **If you miss your tutorial, you cannot earn these marks.** Unlike other assignments, **no late papers will be accepted.**

## 2. Response Paper #1 (25%)

One short (1000-word) essay on the material from the unit “Liberalism: Not What You Think It Is.” Topics will be assigned by the Instructor.

## 3. Response Paper #2 (30%)

One shortish (1250-word) essay on the material from the unit “The Past is Now!” Topics will be assigned by the Instructor.

## 4. Final Examination (35%)

Who doesn't love an opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency with the material under time constraints? Love it or hate it, your final examination for this course will be held on **Tuesday, 06 December 2016** from **0830** to **1030** at a location to be determined by the helpful folks at the Registrar. I didn't pick the time. Sorry. Anyway, you should expect standard fare: multiple choice, short answer, and the like. And yes, it is cumulative to the beginning of the course.

# Description of Course Policies

## 1. Course Requirement Policies

### a. Due dates & late penalties

The due dates for all assignments are found on the first page of this syllabus. With the obvious exception of weekly reflections, you will have at least two weeks—and usually longer—from the time that the assignment is distributed to when the assignment is due.

All deadlines are firm, and lateness is penalized harshly. All assignments are date-stamped automatically by CourseLink; your *latest* date stamp will be taken as your submission date. Late penalties are as follows: **under 24 hours late, 5%; between 24 and 48 hours late, 10%. Papers that are over 48 hours late will no longer be accepted.** Moral of the story: if you foresee an issue submitting an assignment on time (e.g. multiple conflicts with other courses), talk to your Teaching Assistant or the Instructor as soon as you are aware of the issue, and bring evidence.

There are no make-up assignments or extra credit. The only exceptions shall be for medical or compassionate reasons, provided that you have the necessary evidence, as per the College of Arts's regulations.

### b. Submitting assignments

Weekly reflections are to be submitted directly to your Teaching Assistant, in paper, at the end of your tutorial.

All other assignments are to be submitted using the dropbox function of CourseLink by the time indicated on the assignment or as amended. You may not submit assignments through email.

You must submit these assignments in either \*.docx or \*.doc format. Microsoft has a free online version of Word that you can use if you do not have access to the full program. I will post the link on CourseLink. Under no circumstances are you to submit work in \*.odt (OpenOffice) format.

### c. Style and formatting

Formatting plays a subtle but crucial role in the development of your papers. Clean, consistent formatting ensures that your reader's energies are focused where they should be—on your content—instead of being spent overcoming technical inefficiencies. Each assignment will have formatting requirements, including citation style, that you are required to follow. Failure to follow the requirements will be penalized.

## **2. Technology Policies**

### **a. CourseLink**

I will use CourseLink extensively in this course. On CourseLink you will find news items, errata, grades, minor announcements, the course FAQ, assignments, the assignment dropbox, and so on. It is your responsibility to check CourseLink on a regular basis. If you have a question, you should check CourseLink (especially the FAQ) first.

### **b. Turnitin**

The University of Guelph has adopted Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the university.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

### **c. Document distribution**

All non-textbook readings are on electronic reserve through *Ares*. The library will determine the format in which they are available and which functions are enabled; I have no control over that.

All lectures will be posted in Portable Document Format (PDF) on CourseLink for online viewing. You will need a program like Adobe Reader, Nitro Reader, or Microsoft Word to open these files. Note that printing has been disabled. Let us save a few trees, shall we?

All assignments will be posted in PDF on CourseLink with printing enabled.

### **d. Laptop and smartphone use**

Laptops are allowed in lecture just as long as they are being used for course related purposes. If I deem that they are causing a nuisance, I will take measures to reduce their effects through measures such as requiring laptop users to all sit together in the back of the room or banning laptops outright. Your Teaching Assistant has absolute authority with respect to what s/he will allow in tutorials.

Smartphones have no place in the classroom. Refrain from using them. If it is difficult for you to go through the entire class without interacting with your phone, you should seriously reconsider the prominence of electronics in your life. I may ask you to leave the room if I repeatedly catch you using your phone during class.

**e. Email**

As I do not live in Guelph, email is my preferred method of communication outside of class or office hours. I will try my best to respond to your email within a few hours of receiving it, although please understand that circumstances may not always permit this. Note that you should be directing inquiries to your Teaching Assistant first.

**f. Recording lectures**

As per the standard statements of the College of Arts, you must receive explicit permission of the Instructor (me) before recording—whether video, audio, or both—a lecture.

This is my explicit statement that you, collectively and severally, categorically **do not** have my permission to record lectures.

**3. Governance Policies**

**a. Distractions**

Be aware of actions that others may find distracting. Talking, accessing social media, texting and so on all have a *scientifically-demonstrated* negative effect on your grade, but also on those around you. It is also extremely disrespectful. Therefore, please refrain from doing anything that would distract others. If any of these things start to be a problem, I may impose limitations on the class.

**b. Tolerance**

More so than in many other disciplines, philosophy asks you to vigorously and precisely defend your own position and to attack those of others. This does not mean that at any time you should ever show any sort of disrespect towards another student. As philosophers, we exhibit significant tolerance for differences of view, and it is expected that you demonstrate this tolerance.

**c. Transparency**

This course is not a democracy, but that does not mean that we are inscrutable. If you have an issue with something in the course, we will provide you with a full explanation of the process. We will honestly reconsider our position should the situation call for it.

**d. Tutorials**

Unless your Teaching Assistant explicitly specifies otherwise, you should expect that tutorial sections will follow the same policies as lectures.

# College of Arts Standard Statements

## 1. Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their mail.uoguelph.ca email account regularly: email is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

## 2. When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and email contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

## 3. Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 4 November 2016**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

## 4. Copies of Out-of-Class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable backup copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

## 5. Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [sas@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sas@uoguelph.ca), or see the website: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

## 6. Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## **7. Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## **8. Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## **9. Resources**

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

## Tentative Schedule of Readings

*All information subject to change with notice.*

Week	Topic	Day	Readings
01	No lectures or tutorials.	Mon	[no class]
		Weds	[no class]

### Liberalism: Not What You Think It Is

02	Philosophy & Real Life	Mon	C: Syllabus
		Weds	C: James
03	The State of Nature	Mon	C: Hobbes (IPP)
		Weds	C: Locke (IPP)
04	The Social Contract	Mon	IPP: The social contract
		Weds	IPP: The principle of fairness
05	Liberty and Duty	Mon	IPP: Justifying the Liberty...
		Weds	IPP: Problems with liberalism

### The Past is Now!

06	The Sins of the Past	Mon	[Rescheduled to 02 Dec]
		Weds	IPP: Justice everywhere?
07	Oppression	Mon	C: West
		Weds	C: Truth & Reconciliation Comm.
08	Understanding Privilege	Mon	C: McIntosh
		Weds	C: Mulvey
09	Inequality	Mon	IPP: Justice for everyone?
		Weds	C: Cool

### Democracy: The Worst Form of Government\*

10	Democracy Really Is Awful	Mon	IPP: Plato against democracy
		Weds	IPP: Rousseau and the general...
11	Your Guide to Mob Rule	Mon	IPP: Representative democracy
		Weds	C: Dunning
12	Is It the Best We Can Do?	Mon	IPP: Rawls's theory of justice
		Weds	IPP: Rawls and his critics
13	Civil Disobedience	Mon	C: King
		Weds	
		Fri	[Review]

\*except all the others

**Legend.** C: CourseLink; IPP: *Introduction to Political Philosophy*.