

COURSE SYLLABUS

Philosophy and Society

Course code: PHI 385/2

Semester and year: Fall 2017

Day and time: Tuesday 14:45-17:30

Instructor: Jiří Kašný

Instructor contact: jiri.kasny@aauni.edu

Consultation hours: Tuesday 17:30-18:30

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Advanced
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	TOEFL iBT 71
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	Bachelor Elective

1. Course Description

Philosophy and Society concerns with a central feature of human life that we are social being which means that we associate with one another under the governance of rules that are determined by the inter-relationship of tradition, custom, law, and choice. The course is dedicated to the questions that are related to the meaning and nature of human society, it especially questions the relation of the individuals and a community and the social structures that allows for mutual coexistence.

The class presentations, research-reading and discussions include historical and systematic chapters. We will study the nature of society as it was understood by Plato and Aristotle, the medieval Christian understanding of society by Augustin Aurelius and Thomas Aquinas, modern notion of society and especially contemporary concepts and discussions of society. In the systematic part, we will identify various particular systems in society. We will examine the systems of politics with law and the state, the area of science and technology, the system of economics, the system of the family and the system of ethics and world-views from the point of view of social philosophy.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Critically discuss the nature of ancient, medieval and modern societies from the point of view of social philosophy
- Critically discuss how philosophers reflected the societies that they were part of
- Critically discuss the main arguments of the contemporary social philosophers
- Critically think through a variety of questions of the relation of the individuals and a society and the social structures that allows for mutual coexistence from the point of view of particular systems (politics, law, science and technology, economics, family, and world-views)

3. Reading Material

Required Materials

Selected chapters (Available in the Library or to Download)

- Aquinas, Thomas. Summa – selected questions.
- Aristotle, The Politics.
- Beck, Ulrich, The Reinvention of Politics: For a Theory of Reflexive Modernization, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1993.

- Habermas, Jürgen. *Between Facts and Norms*.
- Hayek, August F. *The Road to Serfdom*.
- Heidegger, Martin. *Being and Time*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1996.
- Kant, Immanuel. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Cambridge: Cambridge University, 1997.
- Marx, Karl. *Capital*.
- Plato, *The Republic*.
- Popper, Karl R., *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (2 Volumes), London: Routledge, 1945.
- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*, 1976 and *Political liberalism*,
- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Recommended Materials

selected chapters (Available in the Library or via Interlibrary Loan or on web)

- Aquinas, Thomas. *Treatise on Law*.
- Arendt, Hannah. *Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy*. Edited and with an Interpretive Essay by Ronald Beiner (The University of Chicago Press, 1992).
- Beck Ulrich. *Cosmopolitan Vision*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006.
- Brake, Elizabeth, "Marriage and Domestic Partnership", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2012 Edition).
- Clark, Timothy. *Martin Heidegger*. London & New York: Routledge, 2011.
- Franssen, Maarten, Lokhorst, Gert-Jan and van de Poel, Ibo, "Philosophy of Technology", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2013 Edition),
- Habermas, Jürgen. *The Theory of Communicative Action*. Vol. I-II.
- Hayek, A. F. *Law, Legislation, and Liberty*, in 3 volumes, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973-1979.
- Scruton, Roger. *Dictionary of Political Thought*. New York: The Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Strauss, Leo. *The City and Man*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964.
- Swift, Simon. *Hannah Arendt*. London & New York: Routledge, 2009.
- Taylor, Charles. *The Ethics of Authenticity*. Harvard University Press, 1992.
- Wenar, Leif, "John Rawls", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2013 Edition).

4. Teaching methodology

The format of this seminar is primarily lecture – research – discussion. Students are expected to participate in class, to read and study the required and suggested materials and to do their own research-reading.

The module will be taught over the period of one semester. The module runs for three hours a week for 15 weeks in a semester. Of these 15 weeks, 14 are teaching, discussion and feedback, and one is mid-term break.

5. Course Schedule

Date	Class Agenda
1. 5/9/2017	Topic: Introduction to Philosophy and Society Description: Key concepts of social philosophy: freedom, responsibility, rights, community, government, history, Reading: <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
2. 12/9	Topic: Republic and Politics Description: Republic and politics Reading: Plato, <i>The Republic</i> and Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> – selected chapters;

	<p>individual research, Strauss, Leo, <i>The City and Man</i>. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Home essay I – instructions.</p>
3. 19/9	<p>Topic: A Perfect Society</p> <p>Description: Substantial elements of a perfect society: How religion and ethics keep society together.</p> <p>Reading: Thomas Aquinas. <i>Summa</i> – selected questions. <i>Treatise on Law</i>.</p>
4. 26/9	<p>Topic: Immanuel Kant I</p> <p>Description: Transcendental difference, categorical imperative</p> <p>Reading: Kant, Immanuel. <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Hannah Arendt, <i>Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy</i>. Edited and with an Interpretive Essay by Ronald Beiner (The University of Chicago Press, 1992) – selected chapters.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Home essay I due.</p>
5. 3/10	<p>Topic: Home essay I reflections</p> <p>Description: Home essay I – feedback and discussions</p>
6. 10/10	<p>Topic: Immanuel Kant II</p> <p>Description: Autonomy and freedom</p> <p>Reading: Hannah Arendt, <i>Lectures on Kant's Political Philosophy</i>. Edited and with an Interpretive Essay by Ronald Beiner (The University of Chicago Press, 1992) – selected chapters.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Home essay II – instructions.</p>
7. 17/10	<p>Topic: Karl Marx and Marxism</p> <p>Description: Marx's dialectic materialism; Marxism in politics and economy</p> <p>Reading: Marx, <i>Capital</i>. <i>Recommended Reading:</i> Wolff, Jonathan, "Karl Marx", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Summer 2011 Edition)</i>.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines:</p>
8. 24/10	<p>Midterm break</p>
9. 31/10	<p>Topic: Planned and spontaneous order</p> <p>Description: Order in society as cosmos and taxis</p> <p>Reading: August F. Hayek, <i>The Road to Serfdom</i>.</p> <p>Recommended Reading: Schmitz, David, "Friedrich Hayek", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2012 Edition)</i>. Popper, Karl R., <i>The Open Society and Its Enemies (2 Volumes)</i>, London: Routledge, 1945. Hayek, A. F. <i>Law, Legislation, and Liberty</i>, in 3 volumes, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973-1979 – selected chapters.</p>
10. 7/11	<p>Topic: Instrumental and communicative action</p> <p>Description: Instrumental and communicative action</p> <p>Reading: Habermas, <i>Between Facts and Norms</i>; <i>Recommended Reading:</i> Bohman, James and Rehg, William, "Jürgen Habermas", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2014 Edition)</i>. Habermas, Jürgen. <i>The Theory of Communicative Action. Vol. I-II</i>.</p> <p>Assignments/deadlines: Home essay II due.</p>
11. 14/11	<p>Topic: A theory of a just society</p> <p>Description: Contemporary societies have duties, not voluntary for individual members, to support education, health, and minimal social conditions. However, individual rights are to be respected.</p> <p>Reading: Rawls, John, <i>A Theory of Justice</i>, 1976; <i>Recommended Reading:</i> Wenar, Leif, "John Rawls", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter</i></p>

	2013 Edition). Rawls, John. Political Liberalism. Assignments/deadlines: Home Essay III – Instructions
12. 21/11	Topic: Philosophical issues in contemporary society I Description: How politics and law keep society together Reading: Individual research and Beck, Ulrich. The Reinvention of Politics: For a Theory of Reflexive Modernization, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1993.
13. 28/11	Topic: Philosophical issues in contemporary society II Description: The role of economics, science and technology in society Reading: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – selected articles. Recommended Reading: Franssen, Maarten, Lokhorst, Gert-Jan and van de Poel, Ibo, "Philosophy of Technology", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Winter 2013 Edition). Beck, Ulrich. The Reinvention of Politics: For a Theory of Reflexive Modernization, Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 1993.
14. 5/12	Topic: Philosophical issues in contemporary society III Description: How pluralistic views of ethics, family, and world-views keep society together. Reading: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – selected articles. Recommended Reading: Brake, Elizabeth, "Marriage and Domestic Partnership", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2012 Edition). Taylor, Charles. The Ethics of Authenticity. Harvard University Press, 1992. Assignments/deadlines: Home Essay III – deadline
15. 12/12	Topic: Final exam Description: Evaluation and feedback Reading: Final Take-Home Essay – feedback and discussion Reading: Reflection and comments on individual research and reading

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assessment of this course will be based in home essays I and II (30% and 30%), and home essay III (40%). Preparation and writing of the essays (workload) include participation in classes, primary and recommended reading and individual research reading.

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Attendance and Class Participation	42	0 %	All three essays are based in class presentation and participation, suggested reading and individual research and the results will be part of the essays evaluation.	1, 2, 3
Home essay I	30	30%	Students will discuss meaningfully the topics of the course that have been already covered in accordance with the learning outcomes (see above).	1, 2, 3 Students will discuss critically and communicate effectively the theme and meet all the requirements effectively and responsibly.

Home essay II	30	30%	Students will discuss meaningfully the topics of the course that have been already covered in accordance with the learning outcomes (see above).	1, 2, 3 Students will discuss critically and communicate effectively the theme and meet all the requirements effectively and responsibly.
Home essay III	48	40%	Students will discuss meaningfully the topics of the course that have been already covered in accordance with the learning outcomes (see above).	1, 2, 3 Students will discuss critically and communicate effectively the theme and meet all the requirements effectively and responsibly.
TOTAL	150	100%		

*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Action

7. Detailed description of the assignments

Home essay I:

Home essay I should be about 6 pages long. Use the style of your B.A./M.A. Final Paper. Submit the essay by September 26, 2017, 14:45 in both printed and electronic versions via Neo. Hand in a printed copy of your essay in person to the teacher. The detailed instructions incl. the topics of the home essay will be distributed in class on September 12, 2017. Assessed areas include content, resources, structure and argument, and style and form of the essay; the result makes 30% of the final grade.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Content	30%
Resources	20%
Structure and argument	30%
Style and form	20%

Home essay II:

Home essay II should be about 6 pages long. Use the style of your B.A./M.A. Final Paper. Submit the essay by November 7, 2017, 14:45 in both printed and electronic versions via Neo. Hand in a printed copy of your essay in person to the teacher. The detailed instructions incl. the topics of the home essay will be distributed in class on October 10, 2017. Assessed areas include content, resources, structure and argument, and style and form of the essay; the result makes 30% of the final grade.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Content	30%
Resources	20%
Structure and argument	30%
Style and form	20%

Home essay III:

Home essay III should be about 8 pages long. Use the style of your B.A./M.A. Final Paper. Submit the essay by December 5, 2017, 14:45 in both printed and electronic versions via Neo. Hand in a printed copy of your essay in person to the teacher. The detailed instructions incl. the topics of the home essay will be distributed in class on November 14, 2017. Assessed areas include content, resources, structure and argument, and style and form of the essay; the result makes 40% of the final grade.

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Content	30%
Resources	20%
Structure and argument	30%
Style and form	20%

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

Electronic communication and submission

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS.

Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and shall have the course code in the subject, for example: "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question".

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

Attendance

Attendance is required. The university recommends, as a minimal policy, that students who are absent 35 percent of the course should be failed (or administratively withdrawn from the course if the absences are excused).

Absence excuse and make-up options

Should the student be absent from a class for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he needs to submit an Absence Excuse Form supplemented with documents proving the reasons for absence to the Assistant Dean. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if they submit an Absence Excuse Form along with the finalized add/drop form. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of absence. If possible, it is recommended to inform the instructor about the absence in advance.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean are entitled to make up exams they missed provided that the nature of the exam allows for a make-up. The students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week from the date the absence was excused, and for making arrangements with the instructor about make-up options as necessary.

Unexcused absences

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Absences above this number may result in failure of the course.

Late work: No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines.

Electronic devices

Any electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may be used only for class-related activities (taking notes, looking up related information...). Any other use will result in being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. No electronic devices may be used during the tests.

Eating is not allowed during classes.

Cheating and disruptive behavior

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center

Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)
Turnitin’s White Paper ‘The Plagiarism Spectrum’ (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another’s work, word-for-word, as one’s own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one’s own previous work without citation; To self plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The “Aggregator” includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text’s original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary

procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student’s work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by and when: Jiří Kašný, June 5, 2017

Approved by and when: School of Humanities and Social Sciences, July 2017