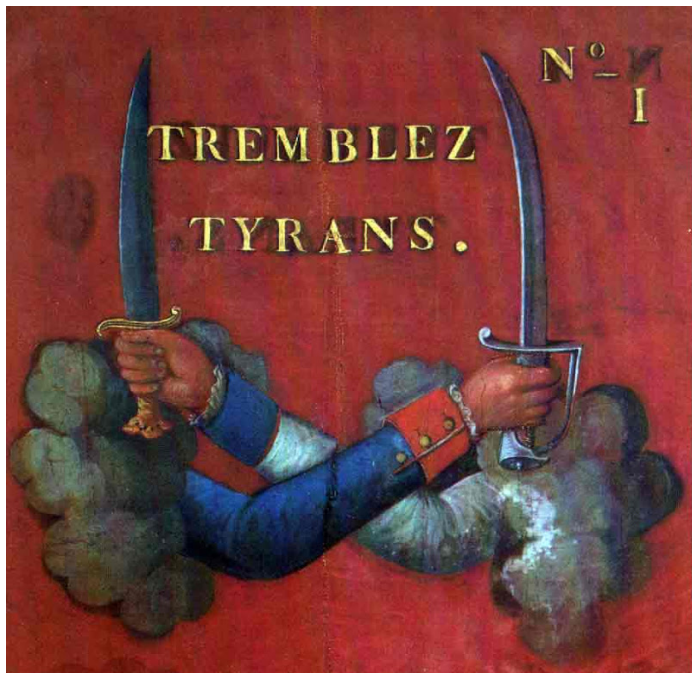

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

**INSTRUCTOR**

Simone Gubler

CONTACT

simone.gubler@utexas.edu

LECTURE TIMES

MWF 1PM- 2PM

LECTURE LOCATION

WAG 214

OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays 11AM-1PM

OFFICE LOCATION

WAG 427

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will walk side by side with some of the great theorists and chroniclers of political experience: with Frantz Fanon in colonized Algeria, with Hannah Arendt in totalitarian Germany, and with Plato in democratic Athens. We will ask questions with empirical, normative and critical intent: 'Who rules?', 'Who should rule?', 'Why have a ruler at all?'. And we will argue with each other, and with a rich cast of ghosts and contemporaries, about the meanings of power, freedom, equality, justice, and rights.

The course is divided into six topic areas that will permit us to engage some of the key insights of Western political philosophy in a roughly chronological fashion. These areas are:

1. Ancient Democracy and its Discontents
2. Social Contract and Sovereignty
3. Rebellion and Revolution
4. Property
5. Rights and Equality
6. The Other Without and Within

POLICIES

Office Hours

All students are welcome and encouraged to visit me during my office hours (Wednesdays 11AM-1PM in WAG427). I want each of you to come and see me in my office at least once, early on in the semester, so that I can get to know you. In the first week of class, I will pass around a sign-up sheet, so that you can make an appointment to meet with me in week two. After that, you are welcome to drop by at any time during office hours, or by appointment as necessary.

Readings

All readings are compulsory and may be found in the course packet, which you will receive in class and may also locate in electronic form on canvas. Readings consist of short, edited extracts from longer books and essays.

Disabilities

Accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. If you think that you are likely to need accommodations, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office in the Student Services Building, and present your SSD Accommodation Letter to me as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the requirements of the student Honor Code. Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the relevant assignment and may be referred to the Dean.

Electronic Devices

No phones are to be used during class time. Use of other electronic devices is discouraged. If you need to take notes, take them by hand. Electronic devices are distracting - not merely for you, but for the people around you. A bonus: studies of memory retention suggest that you'll have better recall of information if you take notes by hand (see for example: <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>).

Charity

Some of the ideas that we'll deal with in this class are likely to seem very odd to you. You might even want to reject them outright. That's perfectly normal. When we encounter new or unfamiliar ideas and arguments, especially when they seem to threaten our standard ways of thinking about things, there's a strong impulse to reject them. But the art of being a good philosopher is, in part, the art of pushing through (and then rationally investigating) that initial reaction of repulsion to a strange idea. So, to that end, let's operate according to a guiding principle: 'the principle of charity':

"The principle of charity governs the interpretation of the beliefs and utterances of others. It urges charitable interpretation, meaning interpretation that maximizes the truth or rationality of what others think and say"

- R. Feldman, Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy

I'd like us to follow this principle in all of our work in this class — in our interactions with each other, with invited guests, as well as with the ideas in the set readings.

So, when someone makes an argument or claim:

- Start from the assumption that the person is rational and is trying to communicate something interesting and meaningful to you.
- Be generous: try to give their statement its best possible interpretation.
- Be patient: avoid attributing wrongness or confusion until you've carefully considered whether a pertinent insight may be derived from their statement.

ASSESSMENT

Short Discussion Paper

- 5%** The prompt will be posted on Canvas on the first day of class. Due September 11.

In-Class Reading Quizzes

- 10%** These five quizzes contain questions that anyone who has done their reading should be able to address. When will I give them? Only time (and diligent class attendance) will tell!

LBJ Field Trip Notes

- 5%** On Friday, the 15th of September, we will take a field trip to the LBJ Library. We will meet outside the main entrance to the Library at 1:15PM. A guided introduction to the LBJ holdings will begin at 1:30PM. You will then be given a scavenger hunt assignment to complete on site. The completed scavenger hunt assignment is due in class on Monday, the 18th of September. Note: The guided introduction will take 30 minutes and will finish at 2PM, so please plan your time accordingly and be sure to obtain all necessary permissions if the field trip clashes with another class.

Midterm Take-Home Exam

- 30%** The take-home exam will be distributed in class on the 13th of October and will cover all material up to that date. Answers are due in class on the 16th of October.

Final Paper

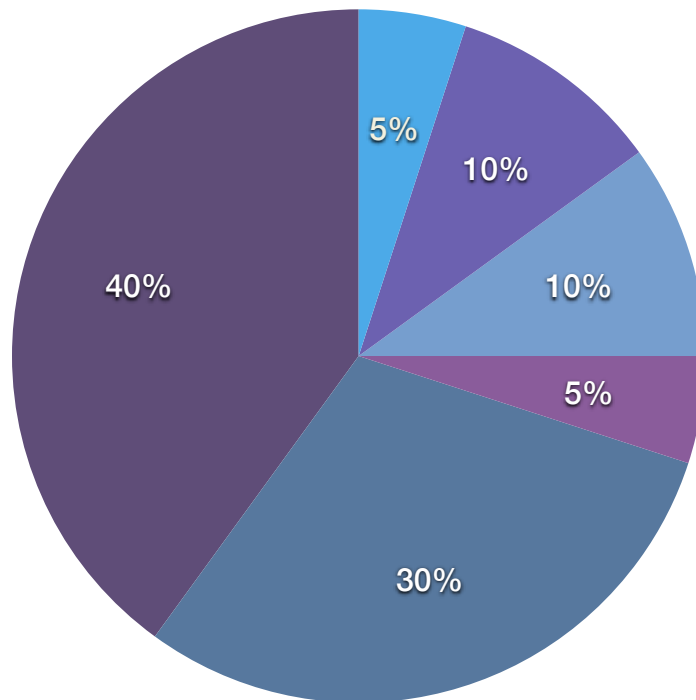
- Topics for the final paper will be distributed on the 1st of November. This assignment has two components.
- 10%** 1. You are to produce a 2 page blueprint for the paper, including a topic sentence, paragraph by paragraph argument plan, and an annotated bibliography. This is due on the 10th of November. You will receive feedback the following week.
- 30%** 2. The final 8-10 page paper is due in class, in hardcopy, on the 8th of December.

Attendance

- 10%** Attendance is compulsory. Each student is permitted a maximum of two unexplained absences. Each further unexplained absence will result in a 20% decrease in the attendance grade.

GRADING Final Grade Breakdown

- Short Discussion Paper
- Attendance
- Reading Quizzes
- Field Trip
- Mid-Term
- Final Paper



Grades will be computed using the plus-minus system. The values are as follows:

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

DATE	TOPIC	READING
WEEK ONE Wednesday, August 30	Entry into the political	<i>The Eumenides</i> Aeschylus
WEEK ONE Friday, September 1	Athenian Democracy and its Discontents	<i>The Funeral Oration</i> Thucydides
WEEK TWO Monday, September 4	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	No class
WEEK TWO Wednesday, September 6	Athenian Democracy and its Discontents	<i>Every Cook Can Govern</i> C.L.R. James
WEEK TWO Friday, September 8	Athenian Democracy and its Discontents	<i>The Republic, VIII</i> Plato
WEEK THREE Monday, September 11	Athenian Democracy and its Discontents	<i>Politics</i> Aristotle Discussion Paper due
WEEK THREE Wednesday, September 13	Athenian Democracy and its Discontents	1. <i>Making Athens Great Again</i> Rebecca Newberger Goldstein 2. <i>Power to the People</i> Mary Beard
WEEK THREE Friday, September 15	Field Trip	Meet outside the main entrance to the LBJ Library at 1:15PM
WEEK FOUR Monday, September 18	Sovereignty and Social Contract	<i>Of the Natural Condition</i> Thomas Hobbes LBJ Assignment due
WEEK FOUR Wednesday, September 20	Sovereignty and Social Contract	<i>Of Commonwealth</i> Thomas Hobbes
WEEK FOUR Friday, September 22	Sovereignty and Social Contract	<i>Remarks on Hobbes</i> Catharine Macauley
WEEK FIVE Monday, September 25	Sovereignty and Social Contract	<i>On Political Societies</i> John Locke

DATE	TOPIC	READING
WEEK FIVE Wednesday, September 27	Sovereignty and Social Contract	<i>The Social Contract</i> Jean-Jacques Rousseau
WEEK FIVE Friday, September 29	Sovereignty and Social Contract	<i>The Male Fixation on Contract</i> Annette Baier
WEEK SIX Monday, October 2	Rebellion and Revolution	1. <i>Twelve Articles of the Swabian Peasants</i> 2. <i>Against the Murderous, Thieving Hordes of Peasants</i> Martin Luther
WEEK SIX Wednesday, October 4	Rebellion and Revolution	<i>What is the Third Estate?</i> Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès
WEEK SIX Friday, October 6	Rebellion and Revolution	<i>On the Trial of the King</i> Maximilien Robespierre
WEEK SEVEN Monday, October 9	Rebellion and Revolution	<i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> Edmund Burke
WEEK SEVEN Wednesday, October 11	Rebellion and Revolution	<i>A Vindication of the Rights of Men</i> Mary Wollstonecraft
WEEK SEVEN Friday, October 13	Rebellion and Revolution	<i>On Violence</i> Hannah Arendt Midterm Exam distributed in class
WEEK EIGHT Monday, October 16	Rebellion and Revolution	Midterm Exam due in class No set reading. In class film: <i>Napoleon</i> (Abel Gance)
WEEK EIGHT Wednesday, October 18	Property	<i>The Wealth of Nations</i> Adam Smith
WEEK EIGHT Friday, October 20	Property	<i>Private Property</i> Karl Marx

DATE	TOPIC	READING
WEEK NINE Monday, October 23	Property	<i>Communist Manifesto</i> Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
WEEK NINE Wednesday, October 25	Property	<i>What I Believe</i> Emma Goldman
WEEK NINE Friday, October 27	Property	<i>Justice as Fairness</i> John Rawls
WEEK TEN Monday, October 30	Rights and Equality	<i>Two Concepts of Liberty</i> Isiah Berlin
WEEK TEN Wednesday, November 1	Rights and Equality	<i>The Grounds for an International Declaration of Human Rights</i> Jacques Maritain
WEEK TEN Friday, November 3	Rights and Equality	<i>On Personality</i> Simone Weil
WEEK ELEVEN Monday, November 6	Rights and Equality	<i>Human Rights, Rationality and Sentimentality</i> Richard Rorty
WEEK ELEVEN Wednesday, November 8	Rights and Equality	<i>On the Rights of the Stateless</i> Hannah Arendt
WEEK ELEVEN Friday, November 10	Rights and Equality	<i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i> Martin Luther King Blueprint of final paper due in class
WEEK TWELVE Monday, November 13	Rights and Equality	<i>The Concept of the Political: Friend/Enemy Distinction</i> Carl Schmitt
WEEK TWELVE Wednesday, November 15	Rights and Equality	<i>What is War?</i> Carl von Clausewitz
WEEK TWELVE Friday, November 17	Rights and Equality	<i>On World War One and Imperialism</i> Rosa Luxemburg

DATE	TOPIC	READING
WEEK THIRTEEN Monday, November 20	The Other Without and Within	<i>Anti-Semite and Jew</i> Jean-Paul Sartre
WEEK FOURTEEN Monday, November 27	The Other Without and Within	<i>The Second Sex</i> Simone de Beauvoir
WEEK FOURTEEN Wednesday, November 29	The Other Without and Within	<i>The Wretched of the Earth</i> Frantz Fanon In class film: <i>The Battle of Algiers</i>
WEEK FOURTEEN Friday, December 1	The Other Without and Within	<i>On the Reality of Race</i> (video) Charles Mills https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epAv6Q6da_o
WEEK FIFTEEN Monday, December 4	The Other Without and Within	<i>Reflections on Race and Sex</i> bell hooks
WEEK FIFTEEN Wednesday, December 6	The Other Without and Within	1. <i>An Open Letter to My Sister</i> , <i>Miss Angela Davis</i> James Baldwin 2. <i>Imagining the Future</i> Angela Davis
WEEK FIFTEEN Friday, December 8	The Other Without and Within	Final paper due in class In class film: <i>Pride</i> (UK 2014)
	End.	