

Philosophy 223  
**Social and Political Philosophy**

Spring 2006  
 Dewey 2-110E, TuTh 11:05-12:20

Dr. Richard Dees  
 Office: Lattimore 529  
 Hours: Tu 10-11, Th 12:30-1:30 and  
       by appointment  
 Phone: 275-8110  
 e-mail: [dees@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:dees@mail.rochester.edu)

TA: Andrew Wake  
 Lattimore 534  
 W 11-1 and  
       by appointment  
 275-4387  
[awake@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:awake@mail.rochester.edu)

Government plays a central role in our lives, but the exact role government should play depends on what we regard as its justification and its legitimate purposes. We will consider a panoply of issues related to individual rights, the goods of the community, and the place of government in promoting values by looking at important historical writers like Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Mill and contemporary thinkers like John Rawls and his communitarian, multicultural, and feminist critics.

**Texts**

Amy Gutmann, ed., *Multiculturalism* (Princeton)  
 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Penguin), ed. C.B. Macpherson  
 John Locke, *Letter concerning Toleration* (Hackett), ed. James Tully  
 John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (Hackett)  
 Susan Moller Okin, *Is Multiculturalism Good for Women?* (Princeton)  
 John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Harvard)  
 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Penguin)

**Course requirements**

The following is a list of the assignments required to complete the course and their approximate due dates. The course grade is divided into 15 parts, apportioned as shown:

First tutorial	3 parts
Second tutorial	4 parts
Third assignment	5 parts
Participation	3 parts

Class participation, you will note, is a *significant* part of your grade. This is a discussion class, and so I expect everyone to come to class prepared to discuss the readings--or at least, to ask questions about it. Some of the class discussions will take place outside of class on WebCT. I will pose several questions every week, to which you may offer answers or replies to what others have to say. You should count on contributing to the on-line discussions in a substantive

way at least ten times over the course of the semester (i.e. before classes end), of which four must be completed before spring break.

The first two major assignments in this course will be done using a tutorial system. I will give you a series of questions about particular texts, and I will ask you to respond to them in a paper of 6-8 pages. You and another student will meet with me or Andrew during the week set aside for that purpose. Your paper is due at the beginning of your tutorial, no exceptions. Together, the three of us will discuss each of your papers. While attending a tutorial is required, you will be graded only on what is in your paper. I will explain the tutorial method in more detail later.

For your final assignment, you will have a choice: you can either write a third tutorial of 8-10 pages on a topic I will give you, or you can write an 8-10 page paper on a topic of your own choosing. This latter option will give you the opportunity to explore an issue of particular interest to you at greater length. Note that the paper must be a *philosophy* paper: it should explain and evaluate a line of argument that is important in the political philosophy we have studied. It should not be a research paper or a polemical tract. I will be happy, however, to help you develop your topic. In any case, if you choose to write a paper, you should come talk to me about it.

All the work that you submit for a grade in this class must be your own, and all quotations and ideas from others that are used in your work must be properly cited. This is an ethics course, and I take a particularly dim view of violations of academic honesty. Please consult the College's policy at [www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/](http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the instructors of this class.

### **Schedule of Readings**

#### *I. Historical formulations*

Jan 19	Introduction
Jan 24-26	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Introduction and chs. 4-14 (pp. 81-83, 100-201)
Jan 31-Feb 2	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chs. 15-21, 24, 28, 30 (pp. 201-74, 294-302, 353-63, 376-94)
Feb 7-9	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chs. 31-32, 38, 41, 43-44, 47 (pp. 395-414, 478-96, 512-21, 609-57, 704-15)
Feb 14-16	John Locke, <i>Letter concerning Toleration</i> Locke, <i>Second Treatise on Government</i> , chs. I-V (pp. 5-30)
Feb 21-23	Locke, <i>Second Treatise</i> , chs. VI-XIX (pp. 30-124)
Feb 28-Mar 2	• First tutorial (no classes)
Mar 7-9	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , bks. I-II (pp. 49-100)
Mar 14-16	<i>Spring break (No classes)</i>
Mar 21-23	Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i> , bk. III, bk. IV, chs. 1-3, 8-9 (101-57, 176-88)

#### *III. Contemporary formulations*

Mar 28-30	John Rawls, <i>Justice as Fairness</i> , pts. I-II (pp. 1-79)
Apr 4-6	• Second tutorial (No classes)

- Apr 11-13 Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, pts. III, V (pp. 80-134, 180-202)
- Apr 18-20 Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition," in *Multiculturalism*, ed. Amy Gutmann, pp. 25-73
- Michael Walzer, "Comment," in *Multiculturalism*, 99-103
- Jürgen Habermas, "Struggles for Recognition in the Democratic Constitutional State," in *Multiculturalism*, 107-48
- K. Anthony Appiah, "Identity, Authenticity, Survival: Multicultural Societies and Social Reproduction," in Gutmann, *Multiculturalism*, 149-63
- Apr 25-27 Susan Moller Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Good for Women?" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, ed. Joshua Cohen, Matthew Howard, and Martha Nussbaum, 7-24.
- Will Kymlicka, "Liberal Complacencies" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 31-34
- Bonnie Honig, "'My Culture Made Me Do It,'" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 35-40
- Azizah al-Hibri, "Is Western Patriarchal Feminism Good for Third World/Minority Women?" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 41-46
- Yael Tamir, "Siding with the Underdogs" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 47-52
- Sander Gilman, "'Barbaric' Rituals?" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 53-58
- May 2 Saskia Sassen, "Culture beyond Gender" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 76-78
- Joseph Raz, "How Perfect Should One Be? And Whose Culture Is?" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 95-99
- Cass Sunstein, "Should Sex Equality Law Apply to Religious Institutions?" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 85-94
- Martha Nussbaum, "A Plea for Difficulty" in *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?*, 105-14
- Final assignment due, May 4, 4:00 p.m.