

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

PHILOSOPHY 106

Hunter College

Lecturer: Fernando Zapata

Course description and objectives

This course is intended as an introduction to social and political philosophy, and therefore is mainly concerned with the treatment of the ideas of justice, right, and freedom within classical works of philosophy. Social and political philosophy, ultimately, ensues from the fundamental moral question of how human beings ought to live, but is supplemented, or broadened, to encompass how human beings should live *together*. The primary goal of this course is to introduce and provide students an understanding of the concepts that ground, or are relevant, to contemporary debates in social and political thought; these encompass, but are not limited to, the nature and demands of justice and civic duty (Plato), the theory of the “social contract” and the institutionalization of natural rights (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau), and the obligations of the state to the individual (Mill). The secondary goal of this course is to prepare students to analyze, and offer, reasoned arguments pertinent to contemporary social and political issues.

Course requirements

Grades for this course are determined by a) attendance and participation in class (10%), b) one (three-page) paper (20%), c) a midterm examination (35%) and d) a final examination (35%).