

PHILO 106 Philosophy, Politics and Society:

Professor Fernando Zapata – Spring 2016

This course is intended as an introduction to social and political philosophy. Social philosophy and political philosophy are distinct fields within the discipline of philosophy; however, they address a number of related concerns involving the individual in society. Social philosophy analyzes the nature of the social world, and describes what the entities and individuals that constitute society are like, whereas political philosophy considers and prescribes what social institutions, laws, and governments, ought to be like. The primary objective of this course is to introduce and provide students with an understanding of the concepts and topics that ground, or are relevant to, recurring debates in social and political thought; these encompass, but are not limited to, the idea of justice, the political values of liberty and equality, the basis for political obligation, and the grounds for legitimate political authority (the latter two topics with regard to the social contract theory). The secondary objective of this course is to prepare students to analyze and offer cogent arguments pertaining to social and political issues.