

SPRING 2022

Senior Capstone

PHIL 4400/PPEL 4800

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:30-2:20pm

Hayes Hall 117

Instructor: Jeff Carroll

Email: jcarro@bgsu.edu

Office: Shatzel 308

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm, and by appointment

Course Description: This course serves as the culmination of your University-training in PPEL and/or Philosophy. It is writing- and participation-intensive. The aim of the course is to help students expand and fine-tune the core skills of their major. The primary way we will be doing it is through an independent research project.

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will learn how to develop and complete an extended research project.
2. Students will enhance their public-speaking abilities by presenting their research to the class.
3. Students will sharpen their critical thinking skills by offering objections to the work of other students.

Required Texts:

All readings provided online.

Grading:

Here is how your grade in the course will be determined:

Final Project/Paper: 40%

Response pieces: 10%

Presentation: 10%

Participation: 30% (of which 5% is for giving your Ted Talk)

Final Exam: 10%

Here is how letter grades will be assigned:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
-59	E

Course Schedule (readings are to be done in preparation for the day noted on the left):

- 1/10 Introduction & Syllabus Day
- 1/12 Brainstorming Topics and Preliminary Paper Project Ideas
- 1/14 Robert E. Goodin, “How to Write Analytical Political Theory” in *Methods in Analytical Political Theory*, ed. Adrian Blau, Chapter 2
- 1/17 NO CLASS – MLK, JR DAY**
- 1/19 G.A. Cohen, “How to Do Political Philosophy” in *The Currency of Egalitarian Justice and Other Essays*, ed. Michael Otsuka
- 1/21 Jeremy Waldron, “Political Political Theory: An Inaugural Lecture”, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 21 (1), 1-23.
- 1/24 James Buchanan, “Public Choice: Politics without Romance” & Mike Munger, “Unicorn Governance”: <https://fee.org/articles/unicorn-governance/>
- 1/26 Watch Jared Diamond’s *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Episode 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i885hopsw6E>
- 1/28 Watch Jared Diamond’s *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Episode 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCBod2jFFyQ>
- 1/31 Watch Jared Diamond’s *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Episode 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJ9espgY-Po>
- 2/02 **NO CLASS**
- 2/04 **NO CLASS**
- 2/07 Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Chapter 1
- 2/09 Abhijit Banerjee & Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics*, Chapter 2

- 2/11 Deirdre McCloskey, *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*, pp. 3-24
- 2/14 Deirdre McCloskey, *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*, pp. 25-51
- 2/16 Deirdre McCloskey, *Why Liberalism Works: How True Liberal Values Produce a Freer, More Equal, Prosperous World for All*, pp. 52-69
- 2/18 *Paper Draft Swap*
- 2/21 Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*, Preface and Chapter 1 – How Does History End?
- 2/23 Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*, Chapter 2 – The Red Queen
- 2/25 Daron Acemoglu & James Robinson, *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and the Fate of Liberty*, Chapter 11 – The Paper Leviathan
- 2/28 *Ted Talks*
- 3/02 *Ted Talks*
- 3/04 *Ted Talks*
- 3/07 **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**
- 3/09 **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**
- 3/11 **NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**
- 3/14 Nadia Urbinati, “Political Theory of Populism”, *Annual Review of Political Science* 22, pp. 111–127.
- 3/16 Jan-Werner Muller, “Seven Theses on Populism” in *What is Populism?*
- 3/18 Adam Przeworski, *Crises of Democracy*, pp. 81-102
- 3/21 Jason Brennan, “How Real Democracy Really Works” in *Debating Democracy*
- 3/23 Helene Landemore, “The Argument for Democracy” in *Debating Democracy*
- 3/25 Helene Landemore, “If Democracy Is Such a Smart Regime, Why Are Democracies Doing So Poorly at the Moment and How Can We Fix Them” in *Debating Democracy*
- 3/28 *Paper Planning Worksheet*

3/30 Dan Ariely, *Predictably Irrational*, Chapter 5 – The Influence of Arousal

4/01 **PEEL WORKSHOP**

4/04 Dan Ariely, *Predictably Irrational*, Chapter 13 – Beer and Free Lunches

4/06 Review for Final

4/08 **FINAL EXAM**

4/11 *Presentations*

4/13 *Presentations*

4/15 *Presentations*

4/18 *Presentations*

4/20 *Presentations*

4/22 **NO CLASS – WRITING DAY**

Final Exam Period (Monday, April 25th 3:30-5:00 pm): Finish *Presentations*

Codes of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy: The instructor and students in this course will adhere to the University's general Codes of Conduct defined in the *BGSU Student Handbook*. The Code of Academic Conduct (Academic Honesty Policy) requires that students do not engage in academic dishonesty. For details, refer to:

- *BGSU Student Handbook* (<http://bgsu.edu/downloads/sa/file15768.pdf>)
- *The Academic Charter, B.II.H*
(<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/facsenate/page471.html>)
- Student Discipline Programs
(<http://bgsu.edu/offices/sa/studentdiscipline/index.html>)

Disability Policy: In accordance with the University policy, if the student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, he or she should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester and make this need known. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services for Students, 413 South Hall, 419-372-8495.
(<http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sa/disability/>)