

PHILOSOPHY 2400

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

SPRING 2021

Tuesday & Thursday 9:35-10:55 (Delivery Mode: Hybrid)



What are the purposes of forming society and governments? What should the goals of a society be—to maximize welfare, to maximize justice, to provide for common defense, . . . (to paraphrase the Preamble to our Constitution)? If there is more than one goal, what are the priorities among them? What is the impact of these issues on matters of race and gender?

Many of the more pressing political and social issues of this or any other country revolve around just these fundamental issues. We will read a variety of historical and contemporary authors on these matters.

The main requirements of the course consist of regular postings on focused discussion boards, a series of short, informal papers, and an all essay final examination.