

In the second part, Andres Moles discusses political institutions, and their justification from the perspective of normative political theory. The justification of political institutions is a core problem in political philosophy. We start by examining to what extent institutions are fundamental by looking at Cohen's critique to Rawls. Then we examine questions regarding what makes political institutions problematic. For some, it is the coercive restrictions of the freedom of those subject to political rule that call for special justification. For others, it is the distinctive form of inequality associated with the relationship of some people ruling over others that requires justification. Furthermore, there are divergent interpretations of the values of freedom and equality underlying the suggested need for justification. Correspondingly, different analyses of the basis of the requirement of special justification point towards different accounts of the necessary conditions of successful justification. Different accounts of the problem that require a response point towards two distinct though not mutually exclusive political ideals as the basis of justified political rule. Freedom-based accounts of the problem of political rule are associated with the rule of law as a political ideal, whereas equality-based analyses of the problem of rule point towards democracy as a distinctively egalitarian procedure as (part of) the answer.

### **Course requirements**

No prior knowledge is assumed, although students with a solid background in political science will have an easier time than others. Students are expected to be present at all seminars and to come prepared, as the seminars are interactive and based on a collective examination and discussion of the core reading for that session. If you are unable to attend class, please notify the instructor via e-mail prior to the session.

### **Assignments and assessment (second part, Prof. Moles)**

- (1) Students will present one reading in class (10%)
- (2) Submit written questions or discussion points about two additional readings (10%)
- (3) A term paper of approximately 2,500 words that critically discusses a particular problem (20%).
- (4) Participation (10%)

### **Learning outcomes and their assessment**

The expected learning outcomes of the second part of the course include familiarity with the conceptual tools and theoretical approaches to the normative study of political institutions, and with the main normative problems of political rule. Furthermore, the course is expected to enhance analytical skills and skills on normative reasoning.

For more on how to write a philosophy paper check Doug's Portmore's 'Tip on writing a philosophy paper' at <http://www.public.asu.edu/~dportmor/tips.pdf> (also available at the e-learning site). See also James Pryor's guide at <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>, and Jimmy Lenman's [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly\\_fs/1.316711!/file/Crap-Essay.doc](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.316711!/file/Crap-Essay.doc)

Grades mean the following:

**F= Fail.** Poor

**C+ Minimum Pass.** Significant confusions; unawareness of some crucial arguments; poor written style

**B- Satisfactory.** Struggles to organize main ideas of the paper. Some confusions, but a general sense of the main arguments.

**B Good.** Cover material covered in class, good reconstruction of main arguments, written expression is clear and succinct

**B+ Very good.** Cover material covered in class, good reconstruction of main arguments, written expression is clear and succinct, plus understanding of subsidiary arguments, familiarity with secondary literature. Some display of analytical skills.

**A- Excellent.** Cover material covered in class, good reconstruction of main arguments, written expression is clear and succinct, plus understanding of subsidiary arguments, familiarity with secondary literature; independent reconstruction of arguments; display of good analytical skills; some critical engagement with the material.

**A outstanding.** Cover material covered in class, good reconstruction of main arguments, written expression is clear and succinct, plus understanding of subsidiary arguments, familiarity with secondary literature; independent reconstruction of arguments; display of good analytical skills, signals of independent thought, critical engagement with the arguments.

Week 7 The role of institutions:

- John Rawls, "The Basic Structure as Subject" in *Political Liberalism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993)
- G. A. Cohen, "The Basic Structure Objection" in *Rescuing Justice and Equality*, Cambridge: Harvard University press, 2008)

Week 8 The role of institutions II

- Christine Sypnowich, "Begging" in Ch. Sypnowich (ed.), *The Egalitarian Conscience*, (Oxford :Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Andrew Williams, "Incentives, Inequality, and Publicity", *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 27 (1998), 225-247.

Week 9 State Rule

- David Copp, "The Idea of a Legitimate State," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (1999), pp. 3-45.
- Niko Kolodny, "Political Rule and its Discontents," *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy* (2016)

Week 10 The Rule of Law

- Christian List, "Republican Freedom and the Rule of Law," *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* (2006).
- Christian List and Laura Valentini, "Freedom as Independence" *Ethics*, 126 (2016), pp. 1043-1074

Week 11 Democracy I

- Daniel Viehoff, "Democratic Equality and Political Authority," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 42, (2014).
- Jeremy Waldron, *Law and Disagreement* (Oxford University Press, 1999), pp. 232-254;

#### Week 12 Democracy II

- Thomas Christiano, "The Authority of Democracy" *Journal of Political Philosophy* 12.3 (2004): 266-290.
- Stephen Wall, "Democracy and Equality," *The Philosophical Quarterly* 57.228 (2007): 416-438;