

# **Equality, Liberty and Modern Political Philosophy**

**Fall 2020**

**Jindal School of Government and Public Policy  
O.P. Jindal Global University**

## **Course Synopsis:**

This course creates the platform to start critically thinking by introducing to the students two most controversial topics of all times – Equality and Liberty. It is a long held belief that these two ideals are incompatible. Students, in this course, will be taught to find a conciliation between these two concepts. They will study main arguments and claims made by the most influential thinkers on politics, whose thinking continues to inform current thought and practice. Through studying the writings of these important thinkers, students will consider the fundamental questions of politics. Students will study the primary works of the selected thinkers, and engage with a range of debates and controversies about their arguments in the secondary literature. The course aims to provide a balance between canonical thinkers in the Western tradition and those who provide an alternative global or critical perspective on these concepts.

## **Required Reading**

Goodin, Robert E. and Philip Petit (eds.) *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition; Wiley Blackwell, April 2019.

ISBN: 978-1-119-15418-1

## **Recommended Reading**

Supplementary readings will be provided as and when required.

## **Course Goal**

- Demonstrate awareness of the historical development of political rights and responsibilities.
- Understand the meaning of equality and liberty.
- Understand the importance of the sociocultural context in which political change occurs.
- Establish link between political philosophy and other disciplines, i.e., sociology.
- Develop critical thinking and debating abilities.
- Prepare for higher studies in Political Science.

## **Instructor and Office Hours**

Swetasree Roy  
Swetasree@jgu.edu.in

Office hrs: TBD

## **Class Timings**

TBD

## **Course Content**

**Week 1:** Realism and Moralism in Political Theory

Reading: Textbook Ch. 1

**Week 2:** What do we want from a Theory of Justice?

Reading: Goodin Ch 2

**Week 3:** The State

Reading: Goodin Ch. 5

**Week 4:** State Simplification

Reading: Goodin Ch. 6

**Week 5:** The Liberal State

Reading: Goodin Ch.7

**Week 6:** Midterm

**Week 7:** Two Concepts of Liberty

Reading: Goodin Ch. 26

**Week 8:** What's wrong with Negative Liberty?

Reading: Goodin Ch. 27

**Week 9:** A Third Concept of Liberty

Reading: Goodin Ch. 28

**Week 10:** Complex Equality

Reading: Ch. 31

**Week 11:** Equality of What

Reading: Goodin Ch. 32

**Week 12:** Equality and Priority

Reading: Goodin Ch. 33

**Week 13:** What is the point of Equality?

Reading: Goodin Ch. 35

**Week 14:** Reflections

## **Assessment**

<b>Reflection Papers</b>	25%
<b>Midterm</b>	20%
<b>Term Paper</b>	25%
<b>Final Exam</b>	30%

**Course Policies:**

*Attendance:* will be followed according to the university norm.

*Classroom Decorum:* Entry to the lectures are not allowed 15 minutes after the start of the class. Please be courteous to your classmates and do not disrupt the class after the first 15 mins.

*Lecture Break:* will have a short break of 5 mins.

*Plagiarism:* will be heavily penalized. All reaction papers are individual effort and will be run through Turnitin. Research project might be a group activity based on discussion in class. Unless specified, you are strongly recommended to do your own work.