

Social Foundations I

Class code T03.0101.086

Instructor Annabelle Lever

Details

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office hour Monday 5 – 6 (location TBA)

Class Details Fall 2009

Monday 2 - 5pm Bedford Square Room 1

Prerequisites none

Class Description

This course introduces students to some of the classic works of the ancient world. It aims to give students a chance critically to engage with these texts, and to connect them to contemporary debates over the relationship between ethics and politics, and over sexual equality and the family.

The course is arranged as a three hour seminar, (with break in the middle) and will involve one field trip to the Verulamium Museum at St. Albans.

Desired Outcomes

Students will learn how to identify characteristic forms of ethical argument (Aristotelian, Platonic, Stoic etc) and to understand their appeal and difficulties. They will learn how to relate classic texts to contemporary controversies, and will discover how different methodological and interpretive approaches to classic texts can affect their moral and political use.

Assessment Components

There will be two short papers and a final exam, each counting for 1/3 of the total grade for the course.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

- **Grade A:** 25-35% A's - Essays that receive an 'A' grade are generally well-organised, clearly written and accurate in their presentation of arguments. In addition, however, they will show an effort to 'think through' the implications of the arguments they have read and/or to consider their internal structure and logic and/or their strengths and weaknesses. Essays in this grade show an awareness of opposing perspectives on the texts, and of the student's own arguments. For these students, we will work on enhancing their capacity for sophisticated thought and argument across a range of different materials.
- **Grade B:** 50-70% B's - Awarded for good or very good work . Work at this level will show diligence, and will generally be accurate and well-organised, although the arguments will often lack the sophistication and sense of alternative perspectives that distinguish essays that merit an 'A'. The task for those receiving this grade is to gain greater sophistication or subtlety in thought and writing skills and we will work on that.

- **Grade C:** 5-15% . Awarded for adequate or below adequate work. Work in this grade will show effort, but may be marred by poor writing skills, some confusion about what the text says, and a tendency to assert instead of argue for a point; and to suppose that the students's own views and intuitions are self-evidently right. For students in this grade, we will work hard on basic writing skills, so that the student feels secure with these; and will look out for characteristic sources of error in approaching texts/arguments in order to improve their content. They will be encouraged to seek help with essay-writing outside the class and, if necessary, with organization.
- **Grade D:** Poor. Poorly written, slap-dash, often unintelligible and with little grasp of what the texts said or what is required in presenting and assessing them. But some sense of redeeming qualities like effort, thought, interest in the text/class. Students who receive this grade will be **required** to work hard on their essay writing skills outside the class as well as on their time-organisation. We will try to help them find a better approach to unfamiliar or more difficult materials, in order to avoid the more characteristic errors found at this level.
- **Grade F:** Fail. Poorly written but with no redeeming features, such as effort, thought, evidence of interest or curiosity. Attendance at essay-writing and other remedial services will be **required** and we will try to solve whatever motivational /organizational failings as well as failings of comprehension led to this grade.

Grade conversion

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100

A-=90-93

B+=87-89

B=84-86

B-=80-83

C+=77-79

C=74-76

C-=70-73

D+=67-69

D=65-66

F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to insure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. (Stern has a different grading policy that we follow in all Stern courses, please see below).

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that-it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:

There should be no more than

- 25-35% A's - awarded for excellent work
- 50-70% B's - awarded for good or very good work
- 5-15% C's or below - awarded for adequate or below work

Attendance Policy

NYU-L has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should **NOT** approach them for excused absences. Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill –health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons will not be considered.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

All absences due to illness must be reported on the first day of absence via phone (Freephone 0800 316 0469) or email freshmen.in.london@nyu.ac.uk. Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshmen Programmes. You will be asked to complete an Excused Absence Form (which can be obtained from NYU in London staff) and you will also need to produce a valid doctor's note, having sought treatment for the illness within one week of your return to class.

Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshmen Programmes prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can be applied retrospectively.

Unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student's final course mark. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

NYU-L also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for further details.

Late Submission of Work

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes **in office hours** (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to Becky Kelley

(becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk) for submission to Turnitin.

(3) Work submitted up to 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

(4) Written work submitted more than 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

(5) **Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission (see section 12 below) and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

All students must submit an electronic copy of their written work to www.turnitin.com. This database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students' work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it. The database is managed by JISC (Joint Information Systems Council) and has been established with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

- 1) Go onto the Turnitin website <http://www.turnitin.com>
- 2) Click 'New Users' in the top right hand corner
- 3) Select user type of 'student'
- 4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrollment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact Becky Kelley if you have misplaced these at becky.kelley@nyu.ac.uk)
- 5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

- 1) Log in to the Turnitin website
- 2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
- 3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the 'submit' icon
- 4) Enter the title of your piece of work
- 5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click 'submit'
- 6) Click 'yes, submit' to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or 'no, go back' to retry)
- 7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
- 8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the 'file' icon in

the 'content' column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. **Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.** NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

**Required
Text(s)**

Peter Steinberger ed. *Readings in Classical Political Thought* (Hackett, 2000) isbn 0-87220-512-6
K. Dover trans. *The Symposium* (Cambridge UP 1980) 10 0521295238/13 978 0521295239
Aristotle *Politics* (Cambridge UP 2002) isbn 10 0521484006/ 13 978 0521484008
Aristotle *Ethics* (Cambridge UP 2002) isbn 10-0521 635462/13-978 0521635462
Confucius *Analects* (Hackett, 2003 isbn 10-087 2206351/13 978 0872206359
Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching* isbn: 0872202321
The Bible: (oxford 1998) Isbn: 10 0192835254/13 978 019283523
J. Annas, *Ancient Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (2000) ISBN-10: 0192853570 ISBN-13: 978-0192853578
and *Plato* (2003) ISBN-10: 019280216X ISBN-13: 978-0192802163
J. Barnes, *Aristotle* (2000) ISBN-10: 0192854089 ISBN-13: 978-0192854087
H. Chadwick, *Augustine* (2001) ISBN-10: 0192854526 ISBN-13: 978-0192854520
D. Keown, *Buddhist Ethics* (2005) ISBN-10: 019280457X , ISBN-13: 978-0192804570
and *Buddhism* (2000) ISBN-10: 0192853864 ISBN-13: 978-0192853868
C. Taylor, *Socrates* (2000) ISBN-10: 0192854127 ISBN-13: 978-0192854124

**Supplemental
Texts(s) (not
required to
purchase as
copies are in
NYU-L Library)**

J. J. Annas, *The Morality of Happiness* (Oxford University Press, 2003) ISBN-10: 0195096525 ;ISBN-13: 978-0195096521
M. M. Foucault, *The Order of Things*, (Vintage Books, 1994) ISBN-10: 0415267374 , ISBN-13: 978-0415267373
A. MacIntyre *Ethics and Politics: Selected Essays vol. 2* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) ISBN-10: 0521670624 ISBN-13: 978-0521670623
M.M. Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness*, (Cambridge University Press, 2001) ISBN-10: 0521794722 , ISBN-13: 978-0521794725
M. Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice* (OUP, 1999) 0-19511032-3
Ed. B. Redhead, *Political Thought From Plato To Nato* (BBC Publications, 1984) ISBN-10: 0563208686 , ISBN-13: 978-0563208686
B. B. Schwartz, *The World of Thought in Ancient China* (Harvard University Press, 1989) ISBN-10:

0674961919 , ISBN-13: 978-0674961913

J. Shklar, *Ordinary Vices* (Harvard University Press, 1984) isbn 0-674 64176-0
E. Spelman, *Inessential Woman* (Beacon Press, 1988) isbn 0-8070 6745-8
M. Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* (Basic Books, 1983) isbn 0-465 08190-8

**Internet
Research
Guidelines**

Generally this should be treated with care. However, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (online and free) is an excellent resource; and use of the electronic version of accepted scholarly journals to be encouraged. But Wikipedia and the equivalents need care, because their information is often not very reliable. Will never count as an acceptable source of information without additional forms of corroboration.

**Additional
Required
Equipment**

N/A

Session 1

7 Sept. 2009

Intro to course and to Greek thought. Will hand out 'essay writing guidelines' and discuss what will be expected of students when writing essays as well as in class. Chance for students to ask questions about the class itself.

Readings: J. Annas *Ancient Phil: A Very Short Intro* and M. Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness*, Intro (and ch. 1 if possible) I will distribute copies of the Nussbaum for the students in class.

Session 2

14 Sept. 2009

Sophocles' *Antigone* (entire); supplementary readings (if write essay on topic) B. Honig 'Antigone's Lament' in *Political Theory*, 2009 and/or M. Nussbaum, *Fragility of Goodness* ch. 3

Session 3

21 Sept. 2009

Plato, *The Republic* Book 5; Aristotle's *Politics* Bk 2 chs. 1 - 5; Book 3 chs 1 and 4 (useful background: J. Annas *Plato: A Very Short Introduction*; and C. Taylor, *Socrates: A Very Short Introduction*)

(optional extra if writing essay: Nussbaum, *Fragility of Goodness* chs. 5 and 12)

Session 4

28 Sept. 2009

M. Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, ch. 9; Nussbaum *Sex and Social Justice*, ch 12. Photocopies of these readings will be available to students ahead of time.

(optional extra) E. Spelman, *Inessential Woman*, chs. 1 and 2; Class will spend time discussing essay-writing technique, using secondary literature to exam how to frame and construct arguments.

Essay questions handed out: due in class for session 6

Session 5

5 Oct. 2009

Plato's *Symposium* (Entire)
Optional reading for essay: Nussbaum *Fragility of Goodness*, ch. 6)

Session 6

Aristotle's *Ethics*, books 1,2,7,8,10
(helpful ackground: J. Barnes, *Aristotle: A Very Short Introduction*)

9 Oct. 2009**1st essay due in class****Session 7**

A. MacIntyre *Ethics and Politics*, (chs 1 and 2) v. J. Shklar, *Ordinary Vices*, ch 6 (and ch. 3 on snobbery an optional extra) I will have photocopies of these readings for you, and there will be a copy in the library.

12 Oct. 2009

(For the ambitious: have a look at Julia Annas: *The Morality of Happiness*, ch. 2. But this is difficult)

Session 8

The Bible: book of *Genesis* (excerpts)

Second essay topics handed out. Due in class for Week 10 General discussion on strengths and weaknesses of first essay and time for private discussion with students

19 Oct. 2009**Session 9**

J. Coleman, 'Christian Political Thought at the End of the Roman Empire' in ed. Redhead (photocopy available for students ahead of time)

26 Oct. 2009

(Helpful background: H. Chadwick's *Augustine: A Very Short Introduction*)

Augustine, *City of God* Bk 14, chs 5 - 28

Session 10

Introduction to Ancient Chinese thought:

Required reading D. Keown, *Buddhist Ethics* (2005) and *Buddhism* (2000)

2 Nov. 2009

Helpful reading for next few weeks: B. Schwartz, *The World of Thought in Ancient China*,

selected passages from the Schwartz will be photocopied for you ahead of time. The book is also in the library.

Second Essay Due in Class**Session 11**

Confucius *The Analects*. Selections to be determined.

16 Nov. 2009**Session 12**

Confucius *The Analects* Selections to be determined.
and time for general and some private discussion of second essays

23 Nov. 2009**Session 13**

The Tao Te Ching (We will read the whole thing in sessions 13 and 14. The precise division of readings

will be determined nearer the time).
30 Nov. 2009

Session 14 *The Tao Te Ching* (precise readings tba)

7 Dec 2009

Session 15 **Revision** Discussion of term's readings /**Discussion of Exam Technique** etc.

14 Dec. 2009

**Classroom
Etiquette**

Students are expected to remain in class for the duration of the class.
Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.
Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class.
Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies.
Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

**Required Co-
curricular
Activities**

There will be a required trip to the Verulamium Museum, at St. Albans on Friday October 23. More details will follow.

**Suggested Co-
curricular
Activities**

Suggestions about enjoyable or interesting trips, lectures or events will be made in class. Students will be informed about useful websites for entertainment, as well as for philosophy and politics.