

**POLS 2700**

**Issues in Political Philosophy**

**Spring 2023**

**TR 12:00**

# McGann

**Instructor:**

**Office:**

**Email:**

Professor Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.

McGann Hall 149

landscapes. Along the way we will read a wide range of theorists and philosophers to both understand their particular political projects and their implied answers to the two basic questions that underlie this course:

1. From a social, theoretical, and philosophical perspective what does it mean to be human?
2. What kind of political order is properly suited and sustainable for human habitation?

### **Course Attributes**

Global Local Justice-Theory, Social Science Req. (A&S)

### **Required Texts\***

*The Trial and Death of Socrates* by Plato

*The Prince* by Machiavelli

*The Second Treatise of Government* by John Locke

*Augustine: Political Writings* by St. Augustine

*The Person and the Common Good* by Jacques Maritain

*Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach* by Martha Nussbaum

\*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester. They are marked by an \* in the syllabus.

### **Requirements**

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(3) Exams

100 points (each)





*Readings:*

April 2      *The Person and the Common Good*, Chs. 1-3 (Maritain)

April 4      *The Person and the Common Good*, Ch. 4 (Maritain)

April 9      *The Person and the Common Good*, Ch. 5 (Maritain)

**April 11-April 23                      Labor, Work, and Action: Human Nature?**

*Readings:*

April 11-16   *The Human Condition* [selections part 1] (Arendt)\*

April 18      *The Human Condition* [selections part 2] (Arendt)\*

April 23      *The Human Condition* [selections part 3] (Arendt)\*

**April 25- May 2                      An Ethic of Care and Human Well-being**

*Readings:*

April 25      *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*, Chs. 1-2 (Nussbaum)

April 30      *Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach*, Chs. 3-4 (Nussbaum)

must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [accessibility\\_disability@slu.edu](mailto:accessibility_disability@slu.edu) or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved,

Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

*Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard language for syllabus statements related to disability accommodations. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for syllabus requirements from their dean's office.*

### **Title IX**

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter,

**you shared an experience relating to Title IX.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; [anna.kratky@slu.edu](mailto:anna.kratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an -877-525-5669 or online at

<http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu>.

the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexual-assault-resources/index.php>.

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### **Student Success Center**

The Student Success Center (SSC) supports students in reaching their goals in and out of the classroom. Providing a variety of resources, the Student Success Center houses both the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) and Academic Support, which includes Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, University Writing Services, and Student Success Coaching. The Student Success Center is located in the Busch Student Center, Suite 331, and students can make an appointment with any SSC resource via EAB Navigate. To learn more about the Student Success Center and its resources, please visit: <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/index.php>.

### **University Writing Services**

University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations with trained writing consultants who help with everything from brainstorming, outlining, and proposing research questions to documenting sources, revising, and implementing feedback. These consultations can take place in-person, asynchronously, or via Zoom and can be scheduled through EAB Navigate Student. Getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels on different writing projects (including but not limited to class assignments, conference papers, cover letters, dissertations, group projects, multimedia assignments, personal statements, senior capstone projects, short answer questions on applications, speeches, and theses). For additional information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/academic-support/university-writing-services/index.php> or send an email to [writing@slu.edu](mailto:writing@slu.edu).

### **University Counseling Center Syllabus Statement**

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers free, short-term, solution-focused counseling to Saint Louis University undergraduate and graduate students. UCC counselors are highly trained

