RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

PHIL 215- SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

I. Basic Course Information

   A. PHIL 215- Social & Political Philosophy

   B. New or Modified Course: New

   C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall   Year: 2020

   D. Effective Term: Fall 2021

   E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, and Education

   F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

   G. Weekly Contact Hours:
   Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0
   Out of class student work per week: 6

   H. Corequisites:
   1. Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English
   Composition I Workshop, or higher.
   2. Completion of any PHIL OR POLI course OR HMNS 207 (Social Policy & Politics).

   I. Laboratory Fees: None

   J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of
       approval:
     Dr. Isabel Gutierrez- HSSE Department Chair- Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu.
     Dr. Patrice Marks- Dean of the Liberal & Fine Arts- Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description
Co-requisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English
Composition I Workshop, or higher and successful completion of any PHIL OR POLI course OR
HMNS 207 (Social Policy & Politics).
This course serves as an introduction to Western social & political philosophical thought. The
course begins by investigating the question which unites both social & political philosophy:
justice. Students will then interrogate many of the central concerns of social & political thought,
including economic distribution, governance, as well as the problems of injustice and oppression.

III. Statement of Course Need
   A. This course is designed to expose students to foundational ideas in Western social and political thought, and how these ideas have shaped their lives as well as the greater society. This course will also prepare students for further study in the humanities, philosophy, and/or politics.

   B. Lab Component: N/A

   C. Please describe the transferability of this course.
      1. This course generally transfers as general education course in Humanities (status pending)
      2. This course generally transfers as a liberal arts program elective.
      3. This course generally transfers as a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
   A. Free Elective
   B. Satisfies General Education requirement in Global and Cultural Awareness (status pending)
   C. Satisfies General Education requirement in Humanities (status pending)
   D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content
   A. **Important Terms & Concepts**
      1. Theories of Justice- The question that unites the social and the political
      2. Authority, Power, & Sovereignty
      3. Violence, War, Terrorism, & Revolution
      4. Freedom, Liberty, & Liberation

   B. **The Ancients vs. the Moderns**
      1. Political bodies & constitutions
      2. The Ancients: The Polis
      3. The Moderns: The State of Nature vs. The State of "Man" (Society)
      4. Arguments for and against democracy
      5. Anarchism and its discontents

   C. **Distributive Justice**
      1. Individualism vs. Collectivism
      2. Capitalism, Liberalism, & Libertarianism
      3. Marxism, Socialism, & Collectivism

4. Rawls' Original Position

D.   **Approaches to the Social Question**
1. Individualism vs. Collectivism
2. Systems Theory
3. Liberalism & Libertarianism
4. Intersectionality & Social Reproduction Theory

E.   **Rights Discourse**
1. What is a right?
2. History, origins, and differing kinds of rights
3. Justification & Enforcement
4. Major works

F.   **Philosophy at the Intersections**
1. Sex & Gender
2. Race
3. Ability
4. Incarceration
5. Mental Illness

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. <u>**General Education Learning Outcomes:**</u>
At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. identify and critically evaluate information. (GE- IL)
2. analyze works in the field of social and political philosophy by applying commonly used approaches and criteria. (GE-6)
3. logically and persuasively defend (in speech and in writing) their own point of view regarding a question and/or problem in social in political philosophy. (GE-1, 6)
4. analyze and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different philosophical perspectives through an ethical lens. (GE-ER)
5. recognize and explain the possible consequences of prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory actions. (GE-8)

B. <u>**Course Learning Outcomes:**</u>
At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. define seminal concepts in social and political philosophy.
2. compare and contrast important perspectives of social and political philosophy.
3. describe advantages and limitations of major philosophical perspectives.

4. analyze and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different philosophical perspectives through an ethical lens.
5. logically and persuasively defend (in speech and in writing) their own point of view regarding a question and/or problem in social and/or political philosophy. (GE-1, 6)
6. Weigh arguments from experts in the field (including guest speakers).

    C. <u>Assessment Instruments</u>
1. essays
2. poster projects
3. presentations
4. quizzes
5. tests

VII. Grade Determinants

A. essays (required)
B. quizzes
C. tests
D. presentations
E. term paper

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

A. lecture
B. small-group work
C. close-reading (in-class)
D. community of inquiry
E. student oral presentations
F. film & facilitated discussion
G. guest speakers

VIII. Texts and Materials:

This course will be an OER course drawing on excerpts and passages from the following

A. suggested textbook: N/A (OER Course)
B. primary sources: as an OER course, students will be provided with excerpts from texts including but not limited to:
-Arendt, Hannah. **On Revolution** (1963)
-Arendt, Hannah. **On Violence** (1970)
-Aristotle. **Politics** (350 BCE)

-Beauvoir, Simone de. **The Second Sex** (1949)
-Butler, Judith. **Gender Trouble** (1990)
-Crenshaw, Kimberle. **Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color** (1991)
-Foucault, Michel. **Discipline and Punish** (1975)
-Foucault, Michel. **Madness and Civilization** (1961)
-Hobbes, **Leviathan** (1651)
-Locke, John. **Two Treatises of Government** (1689)
-Machiavelli, Niccolò. **The Prince** (1532)
-Marx, Karl. **The Communist Manifesto** (1848)
-Marx, Karl. **Early Writings** (1833-1834)
-Mill, John Stuart. **On Liberty** (1859)
-Nickel, James. **Making Sense of Human Rights** (1987)
-Nozick, Robert. **Anarchy, State, & Utopia** (1974)
-Plato, **Republic** (381 BCE)
-Rawls, John. **A Theory of Justice** (1975)
-Rotolo, Giuseppe. **Power/Knowledge: An Introduction to Political Philosophy** (2019)
-Rousseau, Jean-Jaques. **The Social Contract** (1762)
-Savic, **The Politics of Human Rights** (1999)
-Smith, Adam. **The Wealth of Nations** (1776)
-**The Universal Declaration of Human** Rights (1948)
-Wolff, Jonathan. **An Introduction to Political Philosophy** (2016)
-Zwolinski, Matt. **Arguing About Political Philosophy** (2014)
   C. film and video
   D. web sources

*Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources:
Since this course is an OER course, students will need regular, stable internet access. This will also minimize any disruptions to the course because of weather, health, and/or emergency situations. All course materials will be provided in Canvas.

X. Honors Options:
   N/A