

THE POLITICS OF VALUES

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Wednesday 14:45 - 16:45
Online campus <https://sciencespo.zoom.us/j/94636205265>

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Values represent general goals and enable judgements that help us define what is good or desirable. The problem is that we mobilize certain values to think and to act but we constantly fight over their definition, their ranking, and their translation into norms that organize our legal, social and political world. Simply put, values are what we are fighting for and what we are fighting about. To better understand these fights, we need political theory. Theory provides concepts, principles, categories and arguments to guide us through our conflicting normative aspirations. How to be coherent while having different values, beliefs and practices? Where to bridge the gap between ideal political principles and current institutions? Are there acceptable trade-offs between conflicting values or conflicting interpretations of values? Why and how are some values politicized and sometimes weaponized? We will address these questions through several contentious cases and with the help of classical and contemporary authors.

ORGANIZATION OF SESSIONS

Each session will be organized around different sequences: the main lecture, a short interview of a specialist bringing a perspective from another discipline (law, sociology, history, anthropology, fiction, etc.), a discussion of the readings, and a general Q&A.

PRE-REQUISITE

Intermediate coursework in political theory, and/or political science or philosophy.

You learn to develop and sharpen a theoretically informed, interdisciplinary, critical, and reflexive viewpoint on major political issues. You will expand your knowledge of foundational concepts and principles of political theory, and you skills in reasoning and using research material. For each session, one text (about 20 pages) is assigned.

You are expected to keep an open mind regarding contentious issues involving moral and political perspectives you might not share but are ready to analyze and discuss.

GRADING

The evaluation consists in two grades:

1. Video Interview and written interview report (40%). **DUE DATE: October 20 (14:00)**. Group grade (3-5 students). Your task is to do a 20-30 minute recorded interview via Zoom of anyone you would find relevant to discuss a topic related to the theme of the class. You should find a specific issue involving an ethical and political dimension; identify an interviewee who could shed interesting light on the issue; prepare the questions; do the interview; and write the report.
The report is a 3-4 page document that includes a general presentation of the interviewee, the problematized thought-process leading to the questions and the questions asked. You should add a short paragraph explaining your working method (including how you divided the work, how you chose the interviewee, etc.). You can include more details on the context, the interviewee or anything you find relevant for the understanding. You will be assessed according to 6 criteria: (1) Is the topic relevant and is it clearly stated and argued for? (2) Is the choice of the interviewee relevant and well justified? (3) Is there a general problem or question? (4) Is there enough context provided on the topic and the interviewee? (5) Are the questions relevant? (6) Is there a methodological statement?
2. Final exam (60%). **DUE DATE: December 3 (14:00)**. Individual grade. Take-home essay. Essay topics will be given 3 days before the exam is due. The goal is to show an ability to analyze a problem, mobilize the concepts or authors discussed in class, and develop a well-argued answer.

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Becker, Howard S., and Pamela Richards. 2007. *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article*. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

List, Christian and Laura Valentini. 2016. "The Methodology of Political Theory." *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Some useful journals: *Constellations*, *Contemporary Political Theory*, *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, *Ethics and Global Politics*, *European Journal of Political Theory*, *Journal of Political Philosophy*, *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, *Political studies*, *Political Theory*, *Polity*, *Raisons Politiques*, *Res Publica*, *Social Philosophy and Policy*, *Sociological Theory*, *Theory and Event*, *Theory, Culture & Society*, etc.

ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- When possible, you are encouraged to turn on your camera
- Turn on your camera and microphone when you speak
- Be on time for the lecture
- Use your real name
- Avoid inappropriate backgrounds

SEPT.	1	1	Political humanities and the politics of values
1			What is political theory for?

Suggested reading:

- * Dewey, John. 1993. "Creative Democracy – The Task Before Us." In *The Political Writings*, eds. Debra Morris and Ian Shapiro. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub. Co.

SEPT.	8	2	Democratic values (1)
			Does citizenship matter when it can be sold?

Required reading:

- * Anderson, Elizabeth. 2010. *The Imperative of Integration*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, chapters 5 and 6.

Suggested readings:

- * Pocock, J.G.A. 1995. "The Ideal of Citizenship since Classical Times." In *Theorizing Citizenship*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 29–52.
- * Shachar, Ayelet, Rainer Bauböck, Irene Bloemraad, and Maarten Vink. 2017. In *The Oxford Handbook of Citizenship*. New York, NY: OUP Oxford.

SEPT.	15	3	Democratic values (2)
			Contesting who can vote and be represented

Required reading:

- * Goodin, Robert E. 2007. "Enfranchising All Affected Interests, and Its Alternatives." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 35(1): 40–68.

Suggested readings:

- * Bourdieu, Pierre. 2009. *Language and Symbolic Power*. Cambridge: Polity Press, chapters 8 and 9.
- * Delahaye, Claire. 2016. "'A Tract in Fiction': Woman Suffrage Literature and the Struggle for the Vote." *European journal of American studies* 11(11–1).

SEPT.	22	4	Values at the borders (1)
			Cultural preservation, security and self-determination

Required reading:

- * Walzer, Michael. 1983. *Spheres of Justice*. New York: Basic Books, chapter 2.

Suggested readings:

- * Miller, David. 2008. "Immigrants, nations, and citizenship." *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 16(4): 371-390.
- * Wellman, Christopher Heath. 2008. "Immigration and freedom of association." *Ethics* 119: 109-141.

SEPT.	29	5	Values at the borders (2) Freedom, equality and asylum
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Required reading:

- * Oberman, Kieran. 2016. "Immigration as a human right." In S. Fine, L. Ypi (eds), *Migration in Political Theory*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Suggested readings:

- * Carens, Joseph. 1987. "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders." *The Review of Politics* 49(2): 251–73.
- * Kukathas, Chandran. 2012. "Why open borders?" *Ethical Perspectives* 19(4): 649-675.

OCT.	06	6	The value of home A conservative or progressive value?
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Required readings:

- * Young, Iris Marion. 2005. "House and Home: Feminist Variations on a Theme." In S. Hardy, C. Wiedmer (eds) *Motherhood and Space*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 115-147
- * Scruton, Roger. 1993. "Oikophobia." *Journal of education* 175 (2): 93-98.

Suggested readings:

- * Honig, Bonnie. 1994. "Difference, dilemmas, and the politics of home." *Social Research* 61(3): 563-597.
- * Nine, Cara. 2018. "The wrong of displacement: The home as extended mind." *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 26(2): 240-257.

OCT.	13	7	Methodology Reading and writing political theory
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Required reading:

- * List, Christian and Laura Valentini. 2016. "The Methodology of Political Theory." In *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

OCT.	20	8	The value of identity (1) Gender politics and the majoritarian backlash
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Interview and interview report due (14:00)

Required reading:

- * Srinivasan, Amia. 2020. "He, She, One, They, Ho, Hus, Hum, Ita." *London Review of Books*

Suggested readings:

- * Ayoub, Phillip M. 2020. "When do opponents of gay rights mobilize?" *Political Research Quarterly* 73(3): 696-713.
- * Butler, Judith. 2004. *Undoing Gender*. New York ; London: Routledge, chapters 2 and 3.

OCT.	27	9	The value of identity (2) Race and culture
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Required reading:

- * Lenard, Patti Tamara and Peter Balint. 2020. "What Is (the Wrong of) Cultural Appropriation?" *Ethnicities* 20(2): 331-352.

Suggested readings:

- * Hall, Stuart. 1997. "The Spectacle of the 'Other.'" In *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*, London: Sage.
- * Modood, Tariq. 2020. "Islamophobia and Normative Sociology." *Journal of the British Academy* 8: 29-49.

NOV.	10	10	Sacred values Religious beliefs in the public sphere
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Required reading:

- * Laborde, Cecile. 2013. "Political liberalism and religion: On separation and establishment." *The Journal of Political Philosophy* 21(1): 67-86.

Suggested readings:

- * Baubérot, Jean. 2009. "Laïcité and the Challenge of 'Republicanism.'" *Modern & Contemporary France* 17(2): 189-98.

NOV.	17	11	Values worth fighting for When contesting values means disobeying
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Required reading:

- * Arendt, Hannah. 1972. "Civil Disobedience." In *Crises of the Republic*, Harvest Books.

Suggested readings:

- * Rawls, John. 1999. *A Theory of Justice*. Rev. ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, §55-59.
- * Celikates, Robin. 2016. "Rethinking Civil Disobedience as a Practice of Contestation-Beyond the Liberal Paradigm." *Constellations* 23(1): 37-45.

NOV.	24	12	The value of non-human lives Redrawing our moral boundaries
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Required reading:

- * Meijer, Eva. 2019. *When Animals Speak: Toward an Interspecies Democracy*. New York: New York University Press, chapters 7 to 9.

Suggested readings:

- * Callicott, J. Baird. 1989. "Moral Considerability and Extraterrestrial Life." In *In Defense of Land Ethic: Essays in Environmental Philosophy*, Albany: State University of New York Press.
- * Coeckelbergh, Mark. 2010. "Robot Rights? Towards a Social-Relational Justification of Moral Consideration." *Ethics and Information Technology* 12(3): 209-21.

INTERVIEWS (to be confirmed)

SEPT. 15	3	Andrei Poama & Tom Theuns, political theorists, Leiden University On why voting in prison should be mandatory
SEPT. 22	4	Felix Bender, philosopher, KU Leuven On refugee camps
SEPT. 29	5	Nina Sahraoui, sociologist, CRESPPA (pre-recorded) On humanitarian borders
OCT. 06	6	Julien Beller, architect and urbanist On home-making practices and precarious homes
OCT. 13	7	TBD
OCT. 20	8	Lila Braunschweig, political theorist, Sciences Po On gender registration
OCT. 27	9	Lucas Drouhot, sociologist, Utrecht University On racial categorization and diversity
NOV. 10	10	Aurélia Bardou, political theorist, University of Konstanz On religious symbols
NOV. 17	11	Fabrice Arfi, journalist On journalism and disobedience
NOV. 24	12	TBD On natural entities in environmental law