

## **PHIL 1433 920 THE SOCIAL CONTRACT**

**Instructor:** Clarissa Busch

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**Time:** Tuesday & Thursday 5:15-9:15pm

**Semester:** Summer Session II (June 30 – August 5, 2022)

**Location:** TBA

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Description and Objectives:**

This is an introductory political philosophy course. We will begin by exploring three prominent strands of the social contract tradition in political philosophy, the contractarian tradition starting with Hobbes, the contractualist tradition starting with Rousseau, and the libertarian tradition starting with Locke. For each of these, we will think about contemporary objections and applications. The final two weeks of the course will be about challenges to the social contract tradition from critical race theorists and feminists.

An important focus of this course will be to help you develop your writing, reading and reasoning skills.

### **Readings:**

All readings will be available as pdfs on the course website.

### **Course Requirements:**

	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Due Date*</b>
Attendance & participation (this will include one in-class presentation)	20%	n/a
Reading quizzes	15%	15 minutes before each class
Mini essay (in class)	5%	July 7
Essay rough draft	20%	July 30
Essay final draft (1200-1500 words)	40%	TBD

\*Due dates are tentative and may change prior to the start of the summer session.

**Tentative course schedule:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
6/30	Introduction	n/a
7/05	Contractarianism	Gaus, 'Hobbesian Contractarianism, Orthodox & Revisionist' (excerpt)
7/07	Objections and applications	Southwood, 'The Limits of Hobbesian Contractualism' Finklestein, 'A Contractarian Approach to Punishment'
7/12	Contractualism	Rawls, A Theory of Justice (excerpts)
7/14	Objections and applications	Midgley, 'Duties Concerning Islands'; Frieman and Hidalgo, 'Liberalism or Immigration Restrictions, but Not Both'
7/19	Libertarianism	Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia (excerpt)
7/21	Applications and objections	Fried, 'Wilt Chamberlain Revisited' Boxill, 'A Lockean Case for Black Reparations'
7/26	Race	Mills, The Racial Contract (excerpts)
7/28	Gender	Pateman, The Sexual Contract (excerpts)
8/02	Global justice	Kok-Chor Tan, 'The Need for Cosmopolitan Justice'
8/04	TBA	TBA