

Woodrow Wilson Department of Government and Foreign Affairs

GFPT 802
Political Obligation
Spring 2021

G. Klosko
371 Gibson; x3092
gk@virginia.edu

The following books are easy to get. All articles and shorter readings are on reserve on collab.

J. Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge, paperback).

J. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard, paperback).

I. 2-2 Introductory: Political Obligation and Reflective Equilibrium

Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979), Chaps.1-2.

Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971), pp. 19-21, 46-53, 577-87.//Second ed., pp. 17-19, 40-6, 506-14.

L. Green, "Who Believes in Political Obligations?" in *For and Against the State*, J. Sanders and J. Narveson, eds. (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1996).

J. Arras, "The Way We Reason Now: Reflective Equilibrium in Bioethics," in *Oxford Handbook of Bioethics*, B. Steinbock, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

II. 2-9 Authority and Normal Justification Thesis

R. Ladenson, "In Defense of a Hobbesian Conception of Law," *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 9 (1980), pp. 134-159.

J. Raz, "Authority and Justification," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 14 (1985).

III-IV. 2-16 2-23 Consent Theories

Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, Sects. 119-22

Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*, Chaps. 3-4.

M. Walzer, "Political Alienation and Military Service," in *Obligations* (Cambridge, Mass., 1970).

D. Estlund, *Democratic Authority*, "Authority and Normative Consent"

V 2-23 The Argument from Gratitude

Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*, Chap. 7.

A. D. M. Walker, "Political Obligation and the Argument from Gratitude," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 17 (1988).

3-9 BREAK DAY

3-16 VI 3-2, Consequentialist Theories

Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Sec. 5.

Rawls, "Two Concepts of Rules," *Philosophical Review*, 64 (1955).

Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984), pp. 53-86.

G. Klosko, "Parfit's Moral Arithmetic and the Obligation to Obey the Law," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 20 (1990).

3-23 Natural Duty of Justice

Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, Sections 18-19, 51.

Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*, Chaps. 6, 8.

C. Wellman, "Toward a Liberal Theory of Political Obligation," *Ethics*, 111 (2001)

A. Stilz, *Liberal Loyalty* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), Chap. 2, "Authority"

IX. 3-30 Principle of Fair Play

3/30 G. Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*, 162 (1968).

3/30 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. 90-95.

3/30 Klosko, "Presumptive Benefit, Fairness, and Political Obligation," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 16 (1987).

3/30 Simmons, "Fair Play and Political Obligation: Twenty Years Later," in *Justification and Legitimacy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

X. 4-6, 4/13 Alternative Views

4/6 B. Brown, "Reciprocity Without Compliance," *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 48, (2020).

4/6 Klosko, "Multiple Principles of Political Obligation," *Political Theory*, 32 (2004).

4/6 Klosko, "Content-Independence and Political Obligation: Scope-Limitations of Content-Independent Moral Reasons," *Political Studies* (forthcoming).

4/13 Michael Huemer, *The Problem of Political Authority*, Chaps. 8-12 (pp. 183-320)

XI. 4/13-20 Non-Obedience

4/13 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, Sections 53, 55, 56.

4/13 Martin Luther King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

4/20 T. Shelby, "Justice, Deviance, and the Dark Ghetto," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 35 (2007).

4/20 A. Pasternak, "Political Rioting: A Moral Assessment," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 46, 2019.

4/27 N. Gur, "Actions, Attitudes, and the Obligation to Obey the Law," *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 21 (2013).

4-27, 5-4 Paper Presentations (start on 4-27 and 5-4)

VIII, 3-23 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*: Part I

Horton, *Political Obligation*, 1st. ed., Chap 6.

B. Parekh, "A Misconceived Discourse on Political Obligation," *Political Studies*, 41 (1993).

N. Gur, "Actions, Attitudes, and the Obligation to Obey the Law," *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 21 (2013).

REQUIREMENTS

Aside from doing the reading and discussing it, there are three formal requirements.

1. Paper of approximately 20-25 pages, either critical or literature evaluation, due May 9, 2021.

You are also required to make **two** in class presentations:

2. Present one of the readings, and be prepared to lead discussion of it. You should choose an article or single chapter (or other discrete section) of a book. The presentation should be in the 20-30 minute range and should cover three elements. In addition to (a) presenting the piece's main ideas, (b) you should also raise interesting points, and (c) if possible, provide critical remarks.

3. Presentation of paper: in the twenty-five minute range. These presentations will be over the last couple of weeks.