

A photograph of a hand holding a ballot box, with the hand and box in silhouette against a bright, overexposed background. The hand is wearing a watch. The ballot box is tilted, suggesting it is being held or presented.

# Phil 28 Ethics in POLITICS

Dr. Justin Clardy  
m/w/f 4:45-5:50 p.m.







How should our societies be arranged in order to optimize liberty and justice for all? This line of thinking has historically been associated with political philosophers call the liberal tradition. Today, many Western societies, including the United States, fashion themselves as "liberal" societies. However, these societies often fall short of meeting their own lofty ideals. For example, many liberal societies are plagued with issues such as racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, economic inequality and exploitation, and health care disparities, to name a few.

## Course Description

This course is an inquiry into normative ethical questions that emerge in the context of political theories. For example, What might a just society look like? And how might it be achieved? Is diversity inherently good? Should the state be allowed to meddle in private matters such as intimate interpersonal relationships such as romantic relationships and marriages? Can emotions aide a society's pursuits of liberal democratic aims? If So which ones? These are the questions that this course will explore.



# The Professor



Dr. Clardy (he/him)

Research Interests: My research focuses on normative questions that arise within the contexts of interpersonal relationships and political theories. Within that context, I have special interests in questions about social justice and emotions such as love, sympathy, compassion, and tenderness.

## Office Hours

**W: 9-11 am  
Kenna 203**

**email:  
Jclardy@scu.edu**





# Course Objectives:

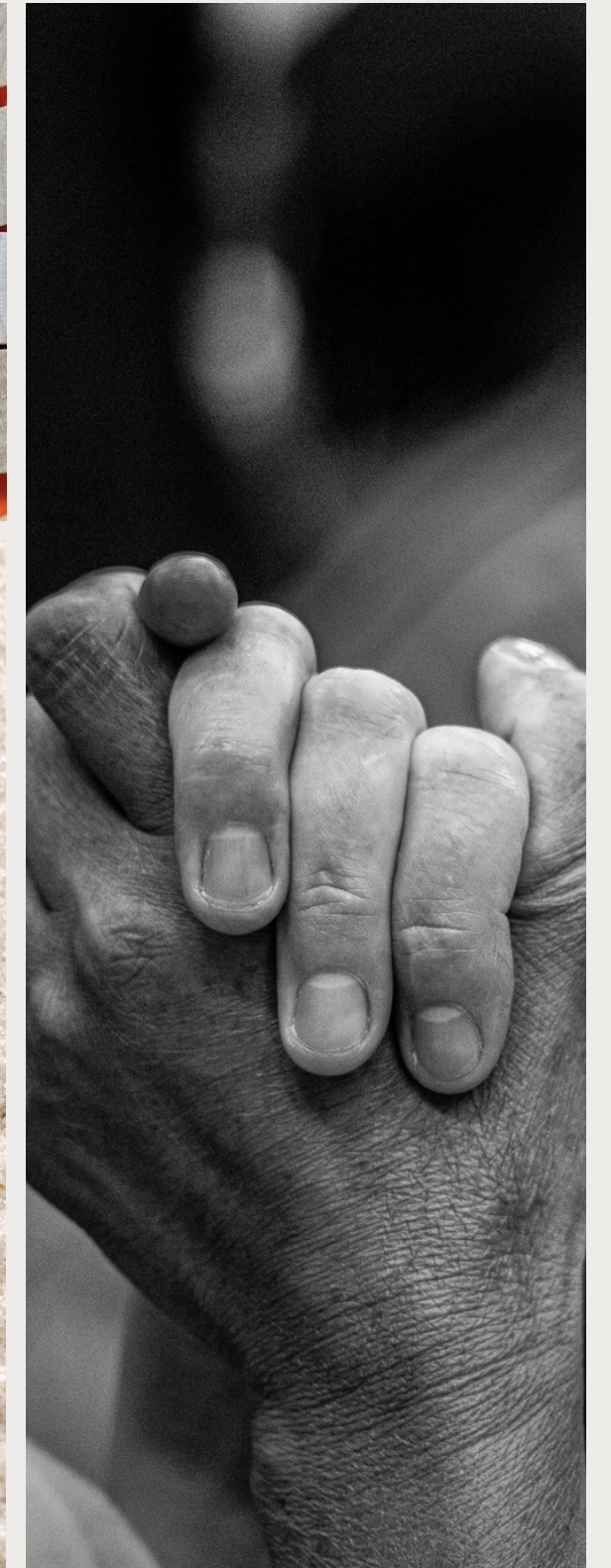
- To develop an ability to **identify** and **evaluate** philosophical arguments concerning ethics and politics.
- To develop a capacity for asking **perspicuous** philosophical questions.
- To develop student's ability to **formulate** and **critique** arguments orally and in writing.
- To develop and practice **good listening** habits.
- To develop a **healthy hesitation** when evaluating other people's perspectives.
- To develop a **normative** and **intersectional** understanding of ethics and politics in Western societies.
- To **increase student exposure** to historical and contemporary writings in political philosophy and in ethics.





# Course Expectations:

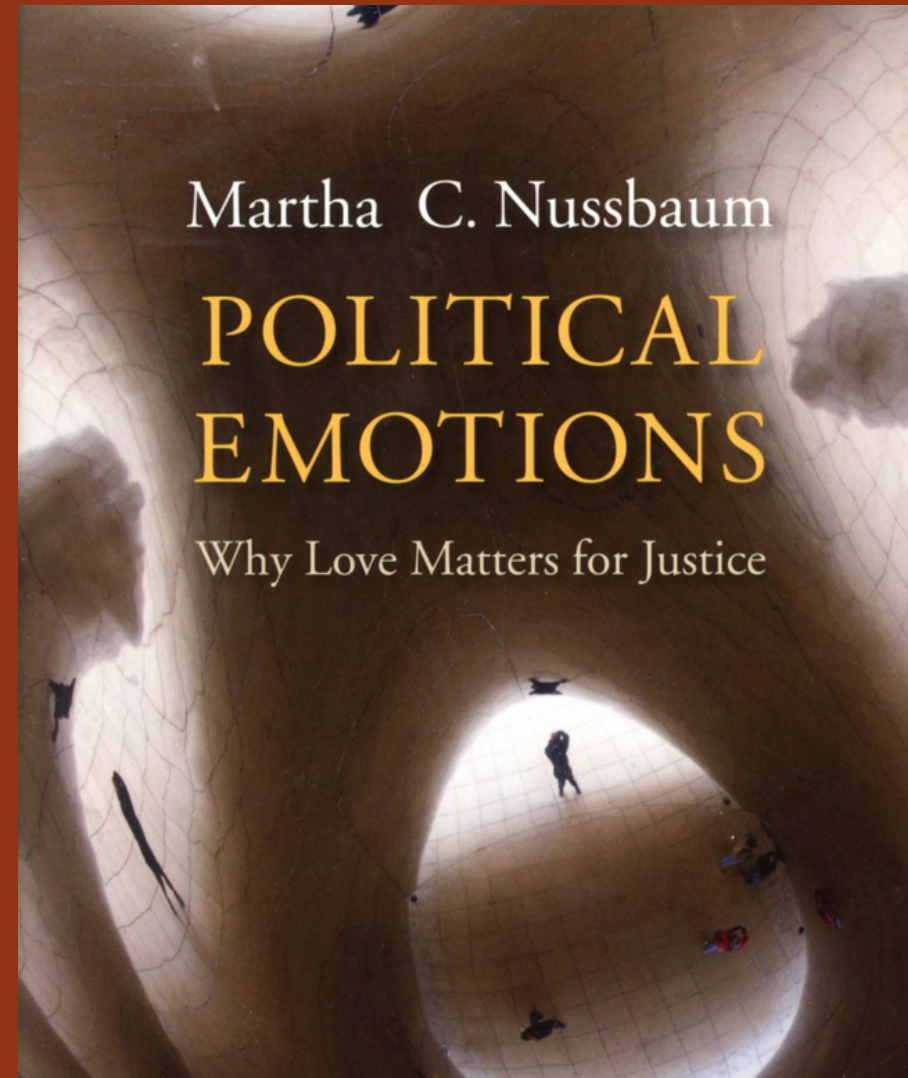
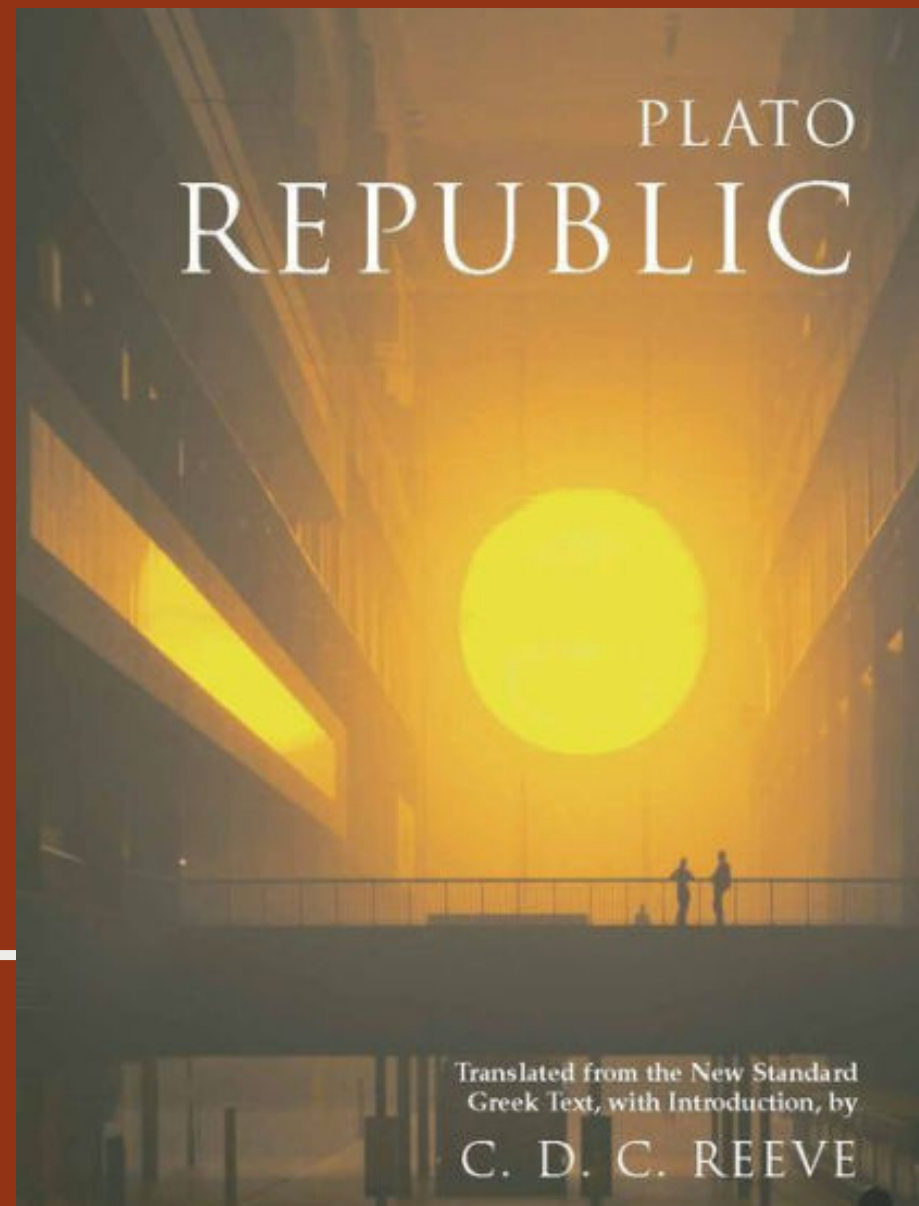
- Take **care** of yourselves.
- Check your email **twice per 24 hours** for announcements from the professor.
- Attend all class meetings with the readings **completed**.\*
- **Active** participation in class discussions
- Completion of all **course assignments** before or by their deadlines.



\*This course encourages vigorous intellectual exchange and the expression of various viewpoints. In order to have the best class experience, you are expected to come to each class having completed the reading assignments as laid out in the reading schedule on Camino. This is crucial. Philosophical development is cultivated through the practice of exchanging ideas and completing the reading assignments ensures that we will have meaningful discussions that contain insightful questions. Additionally, the reading will also enrich the students experience of the lectures.



# Required Materials



A Theory of  
**JUSTICE**

**JOHN  
RAWLS**

REVISED EDITION

In order to keep the course costs low:

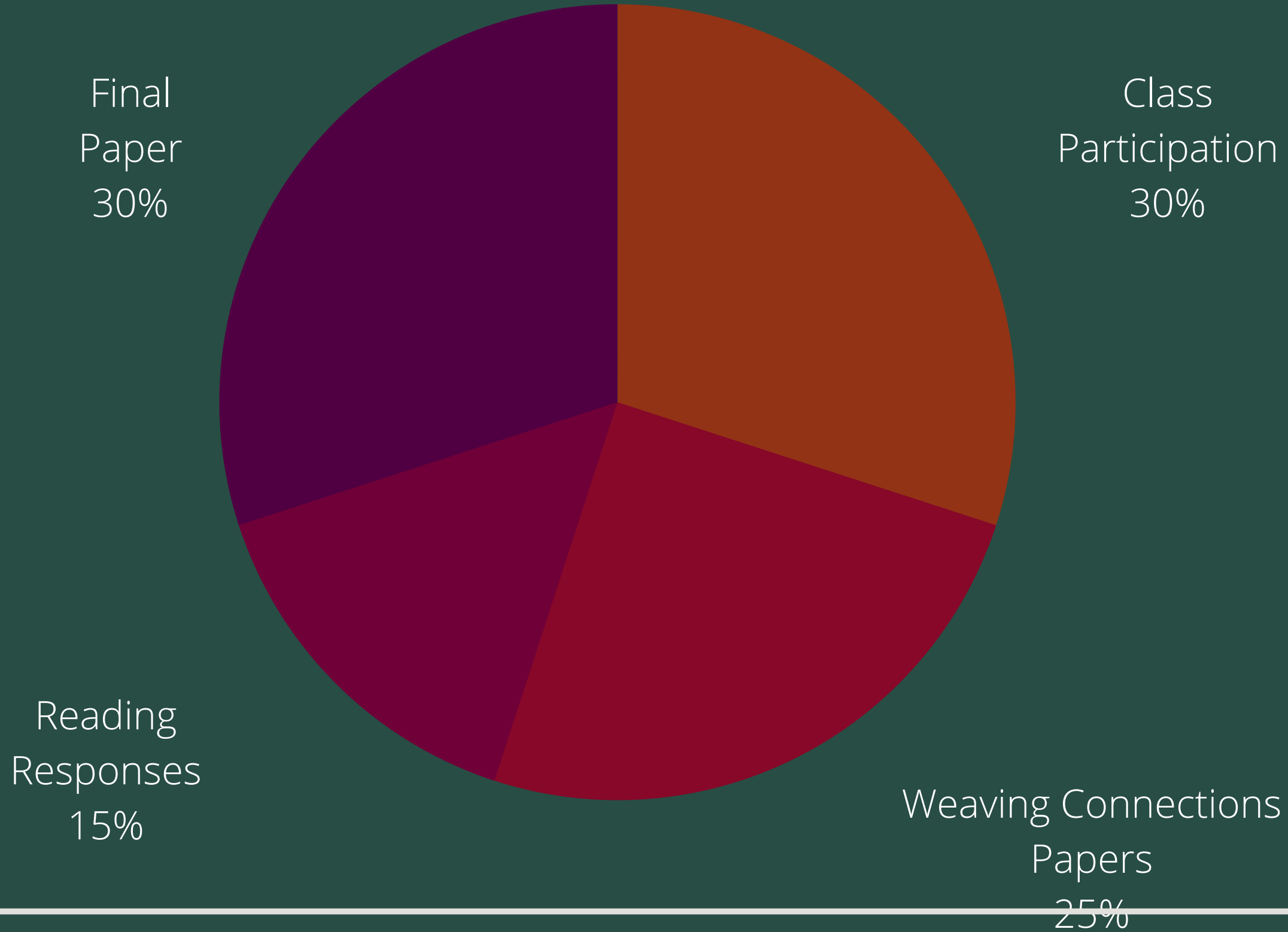
- All of the reading for this course will be made available on Camino





Students will be evaluated on a 4 point grading scale:

A. 4.0	C-.1.7
A-. 3.7	D+. 1.3
B+. 3.3	D. 1.0
B. 3.0	D-. 0.7
B-. 2.7	F. >0.7
C+. 2.3	
C. 2.0	



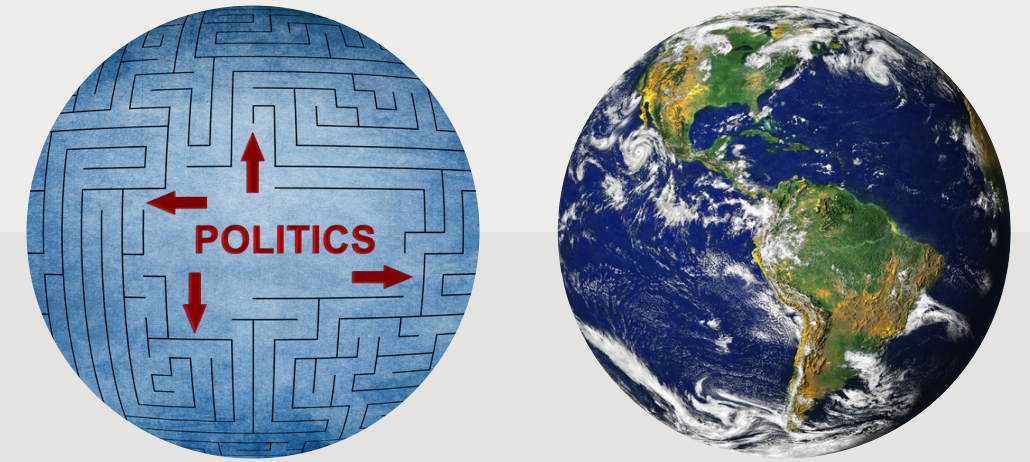
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# Grade Breakdown

*\*Please Note that I will only discuss grades during office hours\**



# Written Assignments



Each student will be required to complete three papers: (2) weaving connections papers and a final argumentative paper.

## **Some Details\*:**

- The weaving connections papers will be designed to evaluate your abilities to synthesize philosophical arguments made in texts that we read as a class and your ability to advance your own philosophical analysis. The papers should be thought about as a natural build toward your final paper.
- Students will also be required to complete reading responses in the form of a short quiz or a short response to a prompt provided by the professor.
- The final paper will be designed to evaluate your abilities to advance your own philosophical analysis of justice around a class theme of your choice.

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\*More detailed explanations for these assignments will be distributed over the course of the quarter.



# LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made with the professor at least 48 hours prior to the assignment's due date. Making arrangements with the professor **is not the same** thing as **notifying** the professor that an assignment will be late. Late papers are also subject to a deduction of one-third of a letter grade for the first day and a whole letter grade for each subsequent day unless evidence of hardship is provided.





# CLIMATE AND HARASSMENT

If you see or hear an incident involving things like discrimination, serious bias, or exclusion, there are many people and resources available to help our community. Belinda Guthrie is Santa Clara's university-wide coordinator for issues like these: 408-554-3043, or [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu).

Reports may be submitted online through <https://www.scu.edu/osl/report/> or completely anonymously through EthicsPoint: <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>.

As an additional resource available to students for things like discrimination, serious bias or exclusion in your philosophy classes, department events, or office hours you can also speak with a member of the Philosophy Department's Climate Committee: Erick Jose Ramirez ([ejramirez@scu.edu](mailto:ejramirez@scu.edu)), Meilin Chinn ([mchinn@scu.edu](mailto:mchinn@scu.edu)), Luis Cheng-Guajardo ([lchengguajardo@scu.edu](mailto:lchengguajardo@scu.edu)), or Erin Bradfield ([eradfield@scu.edu](mailto:eradfield@scu.edu)). Your anonymity will be respected by the Climate Committee as much as possible.



# ACCOMMODATIONS for persons with DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact the office of accessible education (Benson 1, <http://www.scu.edu/oea> , 408-554-4109)As soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through OAE, please discuss them with me during my office hours within the first 2 weeks of class. To ensure fairness and consistency, individual faculty members are required to receive verification from the office of accessible education before providing accommodations. OAE will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assistive technology. Students with approved accommodations of time and a half should talk with me as soon as possible. The office of accessible education must be contacted in advance (at least two weeks notice recommended) to schedule proctored exams or to arrange other accommodations.



# Reading Schedule:



**Please Consult Your Camino Modules for  
the most up to date reading schedule..**

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\*More detailed explanations for these assignments will be distributed over the course of the quarter.



**Happy  
Learning!**

