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# POLS233

## The Good Society and the Market

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### Overview

This course is to examine thinkers who show the transition from how to give political expression to the good life toward how to satisfy demands through the market economy. The underlying theme is that the quality of political thought has been diluted by: (1) The degeneration of moral philosophy – thanks to the lust for objectivity; (2) The fact that political thought and economics have become distinct specialties – thanks to the rise of the market economy. Or to put it bluntly: political philosophers learn neither the ethics nor the economics they need to be relevant.

Plato and Aristotle believed that knowing how to design a good society was the foundation of ethical knowledge. Economics was just a matter of common sense: avoiding extremes of rich and poor (Plato); avoiding a landless class by exporting surplus population (Aristotle). Today, any thinker who cannot argue economics cannot face the greatest challenge of the modern world: how to humanize market capitalism.

After the collapse of classical ethics, the search for values that could be “justified” robbed humanism of its rich content. We go from thinkers who justify the good society (Plato and Aristotle) to thinkers who justify a set of moral rules (Locke) to thinkers who justify one universal maxim (Mill and James). For Mill, the maxim is the greatest happiness of the greatest number. By William James, it degenerates into satisfying the most pressing demands of the greatest number.

The rise of the market economy leaves two options: that it should be abolished; that it must be understood and humanized. Marx takes the first option, plus showing how the market alienates people from self-realization. Tawney takes the second, plus showing that the classical treatment of the good is still relevant. Flynn tries to clarify the nature of the market and why it cannot regulate itself. He argues that we must integrate humane ideals and political prudence and economics if we want to do good in the modern world. Knowledge is power.

### Assessment

Essay – 34% **1 May 2015**

End of term 2 hour exam – 66%

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Semester 1 - 2015

Department of Politics

University of Otago

Dr Jim Flynn

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### Lecturer Details

Office: Office 209 Leith 5

Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday  
5:00-6:00p or email for appointment

Phone: 03 479 8668

Email: jim.flynn@otago.ac.nz

### Lecture Times/Location

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 4:00-  
4:50p

Monday: CASTA

Tuesday: CASTB

Wednesday: SDAV1

# Course Structure and Lecture Topics

## Lectures and Readings

### INTRODUCTION

1. **Rationale of the course**
2. Flynn, **How to defend humane ideals**, ch. 1

### PART ONE: THE GOOD FOR MAN

#### PLATO AND ARISTOTLE

3. **The Republic**, pp. 327-376      The page numbers refer to the ones in the margins of various editions of **The Republic** (Recom: **How to defend humane ideals**, ch. 2)
4. **The Republic**, pp. 412-449
5. **The Republic**, pp. 449-480
6. **The Republic**, pp. 484-521
7. **The Republic**, pp. 543-592
8. **Metaphysics**, Bks I (ch 9) and VII (ch 13) - sometimes these are listed as Bks A and Z respectively;
9. **Ethics**, Bks I and III (ch 4)

### PART TWO: ETHICS ADRIFT

#### MILL & JAMES

10. **Nature and Utilitarianism**, ch 4      (Recom: **Where have all liberals gone?** Ch 8)
11. **The Moral Philosopher and the Moral Life**
12. **On Liberty**

#### AYER

13. **Language, Truth and Logic**, Intro & Preface
14. **Language, Truth and Logic**, chs 1-3      (Recom: **Fate and Phil.**, pp. 137-198)
15. **Language, Truth and Logic**, chs 4-6
16. **Fate and philosophy**, pp. 1-56.
17. **Fate and philosophy**, pp. 57-102.
18. **Fate and philosophy**, pp. 103-135.

PART THREE: THE MARKET

REJECTION: MARX

19. **The Communist Manifesto** (Recom: **Poverty of historicism**)
20. **The Communist Manifesto**
21. **Critique of the Gotha Programme**

ASSESSING: TAWNEY

22. **The Acquisitive Society**, chs 1-3
23. **The Acquisitive Society**, chs 4-6

UNDERSTANDING: BASIC ECONOMICS

24. **How to improve your mind**, ch. 11 (Recom: Blinder, **Hard heads soft hearts**; Sowell, **Basic economics**)
25. **How to improve your mind**, ch. 12-13
26. **How to improve your mind**, ch. 14-15

TAMING: POLITICS and OURSELVES

27. **Where have all the liberals gone?**, ch 8. (Recom: **HTIYM**, pp. 17-47)
28. **Intelligence and human progress**, cha. 4

## University of Otago Statement on Plagiarism

“Students should make sure that all submitted work is their own. Plagiarism is a form of dishonest practice. Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing another’s work, whether intentionally or otherwise, and presenting it as one’s own (approved University Council, December 2004). In practice this means plagiarism includes any attempt in any piece of submitted work (e.g. an assignment or test) to present as one’s own work the work of another (whether of another student or a published authority). Any student found responsible for plagiarism in any piece of work submitted for assessment shall be subject to the University’s dishonest practice regulations which may result in various penalties, including forfeiture of marks for the piece of work submitted, a zero grade for the paper, or in extreme cases exclusion from the University.”

### Politics Departmental Policies

#### 1. Assignment Submission

All assessments must be submitted through the appropriate box (100-. 200-. 300- or 400-level) in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor lobby (north). Students must keep a copy of their essay.

A coversheet for attaching to the front of your essays is available on Blackboard, and under the forms section of the departmental website. Ensure that you put your name, student number, paper code, and tutor’s name (if appropriate) on the front page of your assignments and essays.

Some papers may have a customised coversheet, which you will be required to use instead of the generic department version. Please refer to your course outline prior to submitting your assignments.

#### 2. Extensions

Essays must be handed in by the due date unless the lecturer in charge of the paper has granted an extension.

The Extension Request form can be downloaded from the Politics webpage, or may be available on Blackboard. Completed forms must be emailed to the Department at [politics@otago.ac.nz](mailto:politics@otago.ac.nz) in advance of the assignment due date. **No retrospective application will be accepted except in the case of serious medical condition, for which a medical certificate is required.**

Extensions will be granted only for the following cases:

1. Ill-health
2. Bereavement
3. Personal difficulties of a serious nature
4. Provincial or national representative activities
5. Job interviews outside Dunedin

Nothing else (such as pressure of other university work) will be accepted as a legitimate reason for extensions. Computer problems do not constitute an exceptional circumstance unless it is an officially notified failure of University equipment.

Your application for an extension **must be accompanied by evidence:**

1. Medical certificate for ill-health
2. Documentary evidence for bereavement
3. Written statement in support of your application from another university officer for personal difficulties of a serious nature
4. Documentary evidence for provincial or national representative activities

No other evidence will be accepted. The evidence must be submitted to the Department at [politics@otago.ac.nz](mailto:politics@otago.ac.nz), at the same time as, or within three working days after, the application for an extension either in hardcopy or as an email attachment of scanned image.

Applications with evidence do not guarantee the grant of extensions. **The maximum length of an extension is ONE WEEK, i.e. five working days (except the case of serious medical conditions).** Work that is more than one week late without an extension may be commented on but will not be graded.

Late essays in all papers will be penalised by a grade deduction of 5% for each day of lateness. Thus, for example, an essay handed in three working days late which received a grade of 65% (B-) would be lowered to 50% (C-).

### 3. Return of Marked Work

Assignments will be handed back in tutorials (if applicable) or lectures in the first instance. After that they will be available for collection from Politics reception (room 4C12, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Arts Building) between 9.00 – 10.00am or 2.00 – 3.00pm Monday to Friday. **PLEASE NOTE: Assignments/exams will only be available for collection during these hours.**

### 4. Questions

For specific inquiries about tutorials and tutorial assignments, please write to your tutor in the first place. For more general inquiries about the course as a whole, please write to the course coordinator. Please do not write about things that you can easily find out yourself from this coursebook, Blackboard, eVision, or the departmental noticeboard (such as tutorial locations.)

### 5. Class Representatives

You will be asked to nominate class representatives who will meet with the Head of Department to provide feedback on each course. This is an important role which is valued by the department and can be added to the service section of your CV. OUSA provide training and resources.

### ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Any student should feel free to approach their tutor or lecturer, if they are having any problems or concerns with a course.

### 6. Student Learning Centre

The Student Learning Centre at the University of Otago provides support for students in reading, writing, study skills, note taking and much more. They even provide individual essay consultations and can assist with your grammar and essay planning. Check their website for information and contacts: <http://hedc.otago.ac.nz/hedc/sld.html>

### 7. Maori and Pacific Students

Department contact:

Dr Iati Iati

Email: [iati.iati@otago.ac.nz](mailto:iati.iati@otago.ac.nz)

Tel: 479 8665

Room: 4N10, 4th Floor, Arts Building

Humanities Division contacts:

Ana Rangi is the Kaiāwhina Māori – Māori Student Support Officer for the Division of Humanities. She is of Ngāti Porou/Ngāti Kahungunu/Whakatōhea/Ngāti Kuia/Ngāti Koata descent, and originally from Christchurch. Her contact details are: Room 5C9, 5th Floor, Te Whare Kete Aronui (Arts Building)

Email: [ana.rangi@otago.ac.nz](mailto:ana.rangi@otago.ac.nz)

Tel: 479 8681

Esmay Eteuati is the Pacific Islands Students' Support Officer for the Division of Humanities. She is of Samoan descent, born in Wellington and raised in Dunedin. Her contact details are: Room 5C9a, 5th Floor, Arts Building

Email: [esmay.eteuati@otago.ac.nz](mailto:esmay.eteuati@otago.ac.nz)

Tel: 479 9616

### 8. Disability support

If you are experiencing difficulty with your studies due to a disability, temporary or permanent impairment, injury, chronic illness or deafness, you may contact, in confidence, the department's support person, or the University support staff (contacts below) to discuss adaptations in teaching and learning strategies and resources that may be helpful.

Department contact:

Semester one

Dr Carla Lam

Email: [carla.lam@otago.ac.nz](mailto:carla.lam@otago.ac.nz)

Tel: 479 8242

Room: 4N11, 4th Floor, Arts Building

Semester two

Dr Nicholas Khoo

Email: [nicholas.khoo@otago.ac.nz](mailto:nicholas.khoo@otago.ac.nz)

Tel: 479 5783

Room: 4N4, 4th Floor, Arts Building

University Contact:

Disability Information and Support

Email: [disabilities@otago.ac.nz](mailto:disabilities@otago.ac.nz)

Phone: 479 8235

Website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilities>

### **9. Library Support:**

Politics Library Liaison

Charlotte Brown

Office: Central Library (ask for Charlotte at the Lending and idesk)

Email: [charlotte.brown@otago.ac.nz](mailto:charlotte.brown@otago.ac.nz)

Phone: 479 8976

Hours: Monday 10.00am – 1.00 pm (or by appointment)

Library Search Video Tutorial

This 3 minute video covers the basics <https://unitube.otago.ac.nz/view?m=qlUI54rkNHj>

Self Help resources

This guide offers tips and techniques in developing independent research & information skills.

<http://otago.libguides.com/selfhelp>

Library Website

The Library website provides online access to resources and services, including the Catalogue, Library Search, Article Databases, Group Room Bookings, Hours, Library Locations, Library News, New Books, Exam Papers, Subject Guides, and more!

Library Website: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/library>

Politics Subject Guides

These guides will help you find information for your assignments including articles, books, websites and more!

<http://otago.libguides.com/politics>

Ask a Question

Library staff at any Lending and idesk are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm. Try these people first to answer any questions you might have about using the Library and its resources.

Phone: 64 3 479 8910

Email: [ask.library@otago.ac.nz](mailto:ask.library@otago.ac.nz)

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