

GOVT S-10. Introduction to Political Philosophy (CRN: 30154)

Peter G. Stillman PhD, Professor of Political Science, Vassar College

An introduction to the central questions of political philosophy: What makes authority legitimate? What liberties can citizens claim? What does justice require? Readings will include both classic authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, David Hume, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and John Stuart Mill, as well as work by present-day political philosophers and legal theorists that illustrates differing ways of thinking about such issues as free speech, privacy rights, and equality of opportunity. No philosophical background is presumed.