

PHIL 108: POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY  
Spring 2018

W 3:00-5:45, Sweeny Hall 241.

Karin Brown



In this class we will read theories concerned with the nature and origin of government as they bear on social issues. We will examine in what way different theories of human nature lead to various theories of the state through questions such as: what is the limit and extent of governmental authority? What constitutes economic and social justice? In what way do social institutions affect equality, rights, gender and the work place? Readings will include both classical and contemporary sources such as: Mahatma Gandhi, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Adam Smith, Jeremy Bentham, Virginia Held, Martha Nussbaum, Iris Marion Young.

Course material include:

*Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts*, Steven M. Cahn ed.

Bhagvad Gita: chapter II (online).

Mahatma Gandhi, *All Men are Brothers*, selections (online).