Problems of Political Philosophy  POL518/PHI529  Fall 2016 Philip Pettit

Provisional outline of sessions and readings
All readings will be made available on Blackboard.

Part I. The nature of the polity
1. Civil society
Topics: the invisible hand; the emergence of conventions; the emergence of norms
Readings: Lewis, Convention Ch 1, from s 4 on; Pettit ‘Value-mistaken and Virtue-mistaken Norms’.
Background: Ullman Margalit The Emergence of Norms; Brennan et al Explaining Norms;
Brennan and Pettit The Economy of Esteem

2. Political society
Topics: the appearance of laws; laws and the state; need for coercion, territory, status
Readings: Hart The Concept of Law Ch 5; Shapiro, Legality Ch 4
Background: Weber ‘Politics as a Vocation’; Strayer On the Medieval Origins of the Modern State;
Skinner ‘The Genealogy of the Modern State’; Vincent Theories of the State; Morris An Essay on the Modern State

3. The agency of the polity
Topics: the nature of agency; group agency; why the state has to be an agent
Readings: Pettit ‘Group Agents are not Fictions’; Hobbes Leviathan Ch 16.
Background: List and Pettit Group Agency, esp Ch 1; Pettit Made with Words Ch 5, 8;
Runciman ‘Is the State a Corporation?’

4. The sovereignty of the polity
Topics: the Hobbesian argument for sovereignty; the critique of the mixed constitution; the possibility of modular agency and sovereignty (the mixed constitution).
Readings: Bodin Six Books of the Republic Selections; Hobbes Leviathan Ch’s 17-18; Julian Franklin ‘Sovereignty and the Mixed Constitution’
Background: Daniel Lee Popular Sovereignty in Early Modern Constitutional Thought;
Melissa Lane ‘Popular Sovereignty as Control of Office-holders: Aristotle on Greek Democracy’.

5. The polity and the people
Topics: the Hobbesian picture; the constituting and constituted people; the argument against revolution; constitutional paradoxes
Readings:; Sieyes What is the Third Estate, Ch 5; Pettit On the People’s Terms pp 282-92;
Zurn ‘The Logic of Legitimacy’
Background: Locke Second Treatise Chs 7-11, 19; Rousseau The Social Contract Bks 1 and 2;
Shapiro Legality Ch 2; E.S.Morgan Inventing the People; M.Canovan The People.

6. The polity and the economy
Topics: nature, culture, and the economy; the ontology of property, corporations, and money
Background: Murphy and Nagel The Myth of Ownership; Kay Other People’s Money Ch 1.
Part II. Justice and the Polity

7. Grounding justice in respect
Topics: esteem and respect; the restriction to human beings; the range of respect’s demands; the robust character of those demands; its non-sectarian character.
Readings: Darwall 'Two Kinds of Respect'; Carter 'Equality and the Basis of Respect'; Pettit 'Three Problems of Respect'.
Background: Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* Ch 11; Waldron 'Dignity, Rank, and Rights'.

8. Respect and the delivery of social justice I
Topics: welfare, equality and freedom as metrics of social justice; the challenge of ensuring the robustness of social justice; the role of rights
Readings: Crisp 'Well-being'; Parfit 'Equality and Priority'; Feinberg 'The Nature and the Value of Rights'.
Background: Rawls 'Justice as Fairness'; Berlin 'Two Concepts of Liberty'; Sen 'Equality of What?'; Dworkin *Taking Rights Seriously*

9. Respect and the delivery of social justice II
Topics: equality with robustness; freedom with robustness; the republican tradition of thinking
Readings: Anderson 'The Point of Equality'; Pettit 'The Instability of Freedom as Non-interference'; Pettit 'A Brief History of Liberty'.
Background: Scheffler 'Choice, Circumstance and the Value of Equality'; Pettit *Just Freedom*

10. Respect and the manifestation of political justice I
Topics: social and political justice; the existence and exercise problems; Hobbesian, Lockean, Kantian approaches to the existence issue; the irrelevance of that issue.
Readings: A.J.Simmons 'Justification and Legitimacy'; Ebels-Duggan 'Kant’s Political Philosophy'; Pettit 'Legitimacy and Justice in Republican Perspective'.
Background: Ripstein 'Authority and Coercion'; Stilz *Liberal Loyalty*; Gregor Kant's *Practical Philosophy* Selections; Hume 'Of the Original Contract'; Anscombe 'On the Source of Authority of the State'.

11. Respect and the manifestation of political justice II
Topics: the case for grounding legitimacy in will, not task or benefit or merit; the case for control over consent; the implications for democracy and political obligation.
Readings: Buchanan 'Political Legitimacy and Democracy'; Pettit *On the People’s Terms* Ch 3.
Background: Bell *The China Model*

12. The priority and principles of democracy
Topics: political and social justice; the non-negotiable aspect of political justice; its requirements: insulatory, modular, contestatory, and civic.
Readings: Pettit 'Justice, Social and Political'; Ackerman 'The New Separation of Powers'; Habermas-Rawls Debate
Background: Pettit *On the People's Terms* Chs 4 and 5.