

**Phil 3704      Social Philosophy**

**Class Number 0322      Section MY3      M, W      3:40 – 5:20pm      4117 Boylan**

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This course has two goals:

- 1) to understand differing conceptions of the institutions of social life particularly with respect to the following topics: human nature, capitalism and commodity consumption; community, rights, sex/gender, race, ecological and social “sustainability,” labor, and globalization
- 2) to address the ethical and political dimensions of social life with a strong international approach to the question of democracy and the state

In particular we shall focus on:

- 1) the concept of the social and its relationship to the concept of nature with respect to environmental issues such as sustainability and place
- 2) to explore the impact of capitalism and consumerism on social structures, individual freedom and the workplace
- 3) to look at movements for democracy that offer differing views on the role of the state
- 4) to analyze the social possibilities and limitations in urban areas from divergent perspectives (postmodern, cosmopolitan, ecological, feminist, capitalist/anti-capitalist)
- 5) to look at case studies inside and outside the US that articulate the themes in the first four (e.g. India, Brazil)

Readings include writings by contemporary theorists such as Charles Mills and Martha Nussbaum.

REQUIREMENTS: 4 short exercises (quiz, reports etc.), midterm, 10 page paper, final exam.