

## Philosophy 452: Seminar in Ethics, Political Philosophy and the Philosophy of Law – II

### Major essay

#### Instructions:

**Length:** approximately 4000 words.

**Technical requirements:** All essays must be typed and employ a consistent style for format and references, suitable to research in the humanities. (Note the requirements presented in class / on the website.) **The focus of your essay *must* be the critical presentation and discussion of the key texts.**

**Deadline:** Monday, April 11, 9 am. No papers will be accepted after this date.

This paper will be worth 25 % of your final grade.

You must have your topic approved by me by 21 March.

#### Topics:

**Choose 1 of the following topics, other than the topic of your presentation. (i.e.**

1. Hobbes' views on rights
2. Locke's views of rights
3. libertarian views of rights (Nozick and/or Machan)
4. Rights in the work of John Rawls
5. idealist views of rights (Bosanquet)
6. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Jacques Maritain
7. Michael Ignatieff and contemporary human rights
8. Classical critiques of rights (Bentham and/or Burke)
9. Recent Anglo-American critiques of Human Rights (e.g., Margaret MacDonald)
10. Richard Rorty and the 'postmodern' critique of rights
11. Communitarian views of human rights
12. feminist critiques
13. Human Rights in Hinduism and Buddhism
14. The Right to food and water
15. Freedom of Religion
16. The right to one's body
17. Parental licensing

**If you have another topic in mind that would be relevant to the course, but is not in the above list, see me. You must have a clear topic and the titles of at least 3 relevant readings.**

#### A cautionary note concerning plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and has, as a maximum penalty, immediate dismissal from the university (see the *Academic Calendar*). Students are expected to ensure that both written work and oral presentations respect this regulation. If you have any questions on this, see me.