

Created by: W. D. Nishiyama
Reviewed by: T. Mendoza
Reviewed by: M. Oja
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Political Science (POSC) 1502 Introduction to Political Theory (3 Units) CSU

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours of lecture. 96 Outside of class hours (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Prerequisite: None

Catalog Description:

An Introduction to Political Theory will consider major political theorists including but not limited to Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx, and John Rawls and discuss concepts including but not limited to distributive justice, equality, equity, positive and negative liberty, community, citizenship, democracy, duty and obligation, social and political order, legitimacy, and human nature. This course will meet one of the Political Core requirements for the Associate in Arts in Political Science.

Text: any of the anthologies below:

Cahn, Steven M. 2011. Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy 2nd edition

Note: OpenStax does not offer a text in political theory; however, most of the readings are in the public domain and can be downloaded free from the Guggenheim Project.

Additional Instructional Material: May also include supplementary material.

Course Objectives:

Upon successfully completing the course, the student will:

1. Understand and evaluate original philosophical text
2. Apply philosophical ideas and arguments to contemporary social and political issues
3. Place theories in historical, social, and political context of the original texts
4. Know the similarities and differences of the studied theories
5. Recognize how political theories change throughout history
6. Consider the difference assumptions made by different political theorists including, but is not limited to, assumptions regarding human nature, natural law, morality, ontology, and epistemology
7. Recognize the different schools of thought within the discipline.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I – An Overview of the Nature of Political Theory and Basic Concepts

A - Including but not limited to, Citizenship, Democracy, Duty and Obligation, Equality and Equity, Justice and Fairness, Human Nature, Legitimacy and Consent, Natural Rights, Positive and Negative Liberties

B – Foundations of Ethics May include the following: Cultural Relativism, Deontological, Ethical Egoism, Emotivism, Legal/Contract Theory, Natural law, Utilitarianism and rule Utilitarianism, and Virtue Ethics

C - Schools of Thought including but not limited to the following: Continental, Analytic, and Straussian (Esoteric Interpretation)

Note: this unit or parts of the unit can be covered throughout the course.

Unit II – Ancient Political Thought

A - Plato

Euthyphro
Apology
The Republic
Crito

B - Aristotle

Nicomachean Ethics
Politics

C – Epicurus*

Principle Doctrines

D – Epictetus*

Enchiridion

Unit III – Medieval Political Thought

St. Augustine

City of God – Book XIX

Unit IV – Modern Political Thought

A - Machiavelli

The Prince

B - The Contractarians

i - Thomas Hobbes
The Leviathan

ii - John Locke
Second Treatise of Government

iii - Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Discourse on the Origins of Inequality
On the Social Contract

C - Edmund Burke*
Reflections on the Revolution in France

D - Mary Wollstonecraft*
Vindication of the Rights of Woman

E - Immanuel Kant
Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals
To Perpetual Peace*

Unit V – 19th Century Political Thought

A - John Stuart Mill
On Liberty
The Subjection of Women*

B - Karl Marx
Alienated Labor*
On the Jewish Question*
Communist Manifesto

C - Friedrich Nietzsche
Beyond Good and Evil

D – Max Weber
Politics as a Vocation

Unit VI – Contemporary Political Thought

A - Sigmund Freud*
Civilization and Its Discontent

B - Michelle Foucault*
Madness and Civilization

C - John Rawls
A Theory of Justice



D - Robert Nozick*
Anarchy, State, and Utopia

Course SLO's:

1. Recognize the differences between normative theory from non-normative theory such as descriptive and predictive theories
2. Identify central concepts and ideas throughout the history of political thought
3. Discuss the political theories of major ancient, modern, and contemporary thinkers and explain why they are important if they are indeed important
4. Describe the different contemporary schools of thought in political theory and apply their approaches to original text
5. Critically assess the major political theories and political concepts
6. Apply theories and concepts to contemporary social and political issues.

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Studying
2. Reading the assigned text and taking notes
3. Complete written assignments
4. Writing a journal connecting the lessons to life experience
5. Participate in on-line discussions
6. Watch on-line videos
7. Apply theories to selected movies

Method of Instruction:

1. Class lectures
2. In-class simulations
3. Group debates and discussions
4. Movie clips

Method of Evaluation:

1. In class or take-home examinations
2. Quizzes
3. Written assignments
4. Journaling
5. In-class simulations
6. Presentations and debates
7. In-class or online participation

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	220700: Political Science
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	IG4H: IGETC Area 4H LAHI: Local Course American History LES: Local Ethnic Studies LSBS: Local GE Social/Behavioral Sci
Disciplines List:	Political Science