POLS 18 Course Outline as of Fall 2011

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: POLS 18   Title: POLITICAL THEORY
Full Title: Political Theory
Last Reviewed: 5/8/2023

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	12	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00   Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable
Grading: Grade or P/NP
Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:
Formerly:

Catalog Description:
An introduction to the history of Western political thought from Plato to the present. A survey of political writings from ancient, medieval and modern sources. Course topics include the evolution of Western political thought over the last 2,500 years; an examination of modern political ideologies (such as liberalism, conservatism, Marxism, and feminism); and an examination of the nature of justice and the relationship between the individual and the state.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: An introduction to the history of Western political thought from Plato to the present. A survey of political writings from ancient, medieval and modern sources. Course topics include the evolution of Western political thought over the last 2,500 years; an examination of modern political ideologies (such as liberalism, conservatism, Marxism, and feminism); and an

examination of the nature of justice and the relationship between the individual and the state. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 1981	
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social Science	Fall 1997	
	D8	Political Science, Govt, Legal Instutns		
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	4	Social and Behavioral Science	Fall 1981	
	4H	Political Science:Govt and Legal Instutn		

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1981	Inactive:

CID:

CID Descriptor:POLS 120	Introduction to Political Theory and Thought
SRJC Equivalent Course(s):	POLS18

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:
Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Outline the historical development of Western political thought from ancient Greece to the present.
2. Compare and contrast the "world views" held by political philosophers within the ancient, medieval and modern traditions.
3. Identify the core concepts and contributions of thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Mill and Marx.
4. Compare and contrast modern political ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, Marxism and feminism.
5. Apply the perspectives of thinkers from different eras to contemporary political problems.
6. Utilize research skills commonly found in the Social Sciences.
7. Examine how different societies and social subgroups (such as economic classes and religious groups) interact with one another during the Ancient, Medieval and Modern eras within the Western

tradition.

Topics and Scope:

1. Introducing Political Theory
   a. The scope and purpose of the course
   b. Methodology and research skills
   c. Situating Political Theory within the discipline of Political
      Science--comparison and contrast with other fields of study
2. The Nature of Politics and Development of Political Thought.
   a. Classical Era
   b. Medieval Era
   c. Modern Era
3. Classical Political Thought
   a. Historical setting in Ancient Greece
   b. Plato
   c. Aristotle
4. Medieval Political Thought
   a. The Emergence of Christianity in Europe
   b. Catholic Theorists (Augustine, Aquinas, et. al.)
   c. Protestant Theorists (Luther, Calvin, et. al)
5. Modern Political Thought
   a. A Shift in the Medieval Paradigm
   b. Machiavelli
   c. Hobbes
6. The Rise of Liberalism
   a. The Emergence of Individual Rights
   b. Locke
   c. Smith
   d. The Federalists
   e. Mill
7. The Conservative Reaction
   a. The Spread of Democracy
   b. Burke
   c. Tocqueville
8. The Communitarian Response to Liberalism--Rousseau
9. The Emergence of Capitalism and the Socialist Response
   a. Marx
   b. Communism and Socialism in Theory and Practice Since Marx
10. Other Critiques of Modern Liberal Society
   a. Nietzsche's critique
   b. Fascism and Nazism
   c. Postmodernism
   d. Feminism
   e. Environmentalism
11. Political Theory Today
   a. Contemporary Theorists (Rawls, Nozick, communitarians)
   b. Theory, Ideology and the World Today

Assignment:

1. Read and study appropriate chapters in the textbooks (approximately 40-80 pages per week).

2. Regular attendance and extensive note taking in class is expected and assumed.
3. Preparation for two in-class, closed book, no notes essay exams. One of these exams would be a final.
4. Participate in in-class discussion and readings.
5. Complete term paper approx. 8-10 pages long.
6. Written Homework.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Written homework, Term paper	Writing 25 - 40%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Problem-based learning demonstrations	Problem solving 0 - 10%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, Essay Exams	Exams 60 - 70%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Participation in class discussion, class presentations	Other Category 0 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Primary Sources:

Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader, 8th ed. Ball, Terence and Dagger, Richard. Longman Publishing: 2010

Princeton Readings in Political Thought: Essential Texts Since Plato. Cohen, Mitchell and Fermon, Nicole eds. Princeton University Press: 1996. (Classic)

Secondary Sources:

Inventor of Ideas: An Introduction to Western Political Philosophy, 2nd ed. Tannenbaum, Donald and Schultz, David. Wadswoth Cengage Learning: 2003

Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal, 8th ed. Ball, Terence and Dagger, Richard. Longman Publishing: 2010

Political Questions: Political Philosophy from Plato to Rawls, 3rd ed. Arnhart, Larry. Waveland Press, Inc.: 2002

Political Thinking, Political Theory, and Civil Society, 3rd ed. DeLue, Steven M and Dale, Timothy M. Longman: 2008

Political Thinking: The Perennial Questions, 6th ed. Tinder, Glenn. Longman: 2003

Political Thought: A Guide to the Classics, ed. 1. Bagby, Laurie M. Wadsworth Cengage Learning: 2001

Reconstructing the Classics: Political Theory from Plato to Marx, 3rd ed. Portis, Edward Bryan. Chatham House Publishers/Seven Bridges Press, LLC: 2007

World History of Ancient Political Thought. Black, Antony. Oxford: 2009