

**POLS 18 Course Outline as of Fall 2024****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	6	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:**

In this course, students will be introduced to political theory through a survey of classical, modern, and contemporary political writings. Course topics include an inquiry into the nature of justice and the relationship between the individual and the state, an examination of political ideologies, and the exploration of the relevance of political theory to contemporary issues.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: In this course, students will be introduced to political theory through a survey of classical, modern, and contemporary political writings. Course topics include an inquiry into the nature of justice and the relationship between the individual and the state, an examination of political ideologies, and the exploration of the relevance of political theory to contemporary issues. (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:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 2025	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	L4	Social and Behavioral Sciences		
	<b>Transfer Area</b>			
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 1981	Fall 2025
	D8	Political Science, Govt, Legal Instutns	Effective: Fall 1997	Inactive:

<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		<b>Effective:</b>	<b>Inactive:</b>
	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**

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the core concepts and contributions of selected major political thinkers.
2. Identify changes within political thought over time through reading diverse foundational classical, modern, and contemporary political texts.
3. Apply the concepts covered in political theory to contemporary political issues.

### **Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify the defining concepts and assumptions of selected political theories.
2. Assess the historical and social context surrounding the origination of political theories.
3. Compare and contrast modern political ideologies.
4. Analyze foundational primary texts written by selected major political thinkers.
5. Evaluate selected classical, modern, and contemporary political thinkers' proposed solutions to political problems addressed in their writings and apply the political thinkers' perspectives to current political problems.
6. Analyze the different assumptions and values about "human nature" and "reality" embedded in

each political theory and examine the way these starting premises shape the questions asked and conclusions reached.

## **Topics and Scope:**

### **I. Introducing Political Theory**

- A. The scope and purpose of the course
- B. The tradition of political inquiry
- C. Political theory questions – Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. The relationship between the individual and the state
  - 2. The nature of justice
- D. Situating political theory within the discipline of political science

### **II. Classical Political Thought**

- A. Explores the writings of selected major classical political thinkers, that may include and are not limited to:
  - 1. Plato
  - 2. Aristotle
  - 3. Cicero
- B. Greek and Roman political thought
  - 1. Historical setting in ancient Greece and Rome

### **III. Modern Political Thought and Ideologies**

- A. Explores the writings of selected major modern political thinkers, that may include and are not limited to:
  - 1. Thomas Hobbes
  - 2. John Locke
  - 3. Mary Wollstonecraft
  - 4. Karl Marx
- B. Social Contract Theory
- C. Liberalism
- D. Conservatism
- E. Socialism
- F. Fascism

### **IV. Contemporary Political Thought and Themes**

- A. Explores the writings of selected major contemporary political thinkers, that may include and are not limited to:
  - 1. Frantz Fanon
  - 2. Martin Luther King, Jr.
  - 3. John Rawls
  - 4. Kimberlé Crenshaw
- B. Feminism
- C. Social justice and minority rights
- D. Environmental political thought
- E. Theory, ideology, and the world today

## **Assignment:**

- 1. Weekly reading of assigned course texts (20-40 pages)
- 2. Complete writing homework assignments (2,500-5,000 words total) such as:
  - A. Analytical papers
  - B. Research papers
  - C. Reaction papers
- 3. Examinations (2-4)

4. Optional assignments, such as:
- A. Quizzes
  - B. Presentations
  - C. Debates
  - D. Attendance and participation

**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.

Writing homework assignments	Writing 30 - 60%
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**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None	Problem solving 0 - 0%
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**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%
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**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Examinations; quizzes	Exams 40 - 60%
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**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Presentations; debates; attendance and participation	Other Category 0 - 10%
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**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Classic Primary Sources:

The Republic. Plato

A Vindication of the Rights of Women. Wollstonecraft, Mary.

The Wretched of the Earth. Fanon, Frantz.

A Theory of Justice. Rawls, John.

Secondary Sources:

Princeton Readings in Political Thought: Essential Texts from Plato to Populism. 2nd ed. Cohen, Mitchell. Princeton University Press. 2018 (classic).

Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts. 3rd ed. Cahn, Steven. Oxford University Press. 2014 (classic).

Political Ideologies and the Democratic Ideal. 11th ed. Ball, Terence, et. al. Routledge. 2019.

An Introduction to Political Philosophy. 4th ed. Wolff, Jonathan. Oxford University Press. 2022.

