PHIL 9 Course Outline as of Fall 2025

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: PHIL 9 Title: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
Full Title: Political Philosophy
Last Reviewed: 2/26/2024

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:
Students will examine political concepts such as liberty, equality, rights, justice, and democracy. Typical approaches will use these concepts to address the nature of government and citizenship, then apply these concepts to contemporary issues such as civil rights, the welfare state, and civil disobedience.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Students will examine political concepts such as liberty, equality, rights, justice, and democracy. Typical approaches will use these concepts to address the nature of government and citizenship, then apply these concepts to contemporary issues such as civil rights, the welfare state, and civil disobedience. (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:
	E	Humanities	Fall 2025	
	G	American Cultures/Ethnic Studies		
	L3	Arts and Humanities		
	E	Humanities	Fall 1996	Fall 2025
	G	American Cultures/Ethnic Studies		
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities	Fall 1997	
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities	Fall 1997	

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1996	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1996	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Form well-reasoned judgments about philosophical arguments concerning government and its relationship to individuals.
2. Apply philosophical theories to current political issues.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Explain the relationship between political philosophy and political science.
2. Identify philosophical concepts within political theories.
3. Analyze philosophical arguments about political theories.
4. Critically evaluate philosophical arguments about political theories.
5. Compare and contrast how various political philosophies apply to selected current global and/or local political issues.

Topics and Scope:

I. Introduction
   A. Nature of philosophical reflection
   B. Special issues of political philosophy

II. Basic Issue of Governmental Legitimacy: Theories about what Justifies State Power Over Individuals
III. Rights of the Individual
    A. Liberty
    B. Human rights
    C. Political rights
    D. Negative and positive rights
IV. Rights and Responsibilities involved in Citizenship
    A. Free speech
    B. Privacy
    C. Other
V. Theories of Constitutional Interpretation
VI. Common and Shared Values
    A. Procedural values
    B. Substantive values
VII. Systematic Political Philosophies and Differing Views of Human Nature and Human Society
    A. Conservatism
    B. Liberalism
    C. Communitarianism
    D. Democratic socialism
    E. Others

Assignment:

1. Regularly assigned reading from course texts and supplemental materials
2. Multiple choice and/or short essay quizzes covering the assigned readings
3. Out-of-Class writing essays totaling 1000 to 4000 words
4. Final examination involving true/false, multiple choice, fill-in, and/or essay questions

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.

Essays	Writing 30 - 60%

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

None	Problem solving 0 - 0%

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.

Quizzes and exams	Exams 30 - 60%

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

Attendance and participation	Other Category 0 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:
Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present. 3rd ed. Boucher, David and Kelly, Paul. Oxford University Press. 2017. (classic).
Social and Political Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction. 2nd ed. Christman, John. Routledge. 2017. (classic).
Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts. 3rd ed. Cahn, Stephen. Oxford University Press. 2014. (classic).
Political Philosophy. Simmons, John. Oxford University Press. 2007. (classic).
Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology. 2nd ed. Goodin, Robert and Pettit, Philip. Wiley-Blackwell. 2005. (classic).