

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 | 17.5 | 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 examination of philosophical concepts such as liberty, equality, rights, justice, and democracy. Typical approaches will use these and other concepts to address the nature of government and citizenship, attempting to understand the U.S. Constitution, civil rights, and contemporary issues such as affirmative action and the welfare state. These concepts will be explored through the thought and experience of diverse groups within the United States.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for Engl 1A.

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: The examination of basic concepts in political philosophy such as liberty, equality, rights, justice and democracy. These concepts will be explored through the thought and experience of diverse groups within the United States. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for Engl 1A.

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 1996 | |
| | 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

Outcomes and Objectives:

The student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts of political philosophy, such as liberty, equality, justice, rights, and the legitimate government. Demonstrate the ability to understand and analyze concepts which are prerequisites for understanding political thought in a diverse society: race, ethnicity, gender, class, culture and religion.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the political philosophy of several prominent classical or contemporary philosophers, including those who address issues and views of diverse groups in the United States.
3. Demonstrate the ability to apply these concepts and theories to practical issues such as understanding the U.S. Constitution, civil rights, affirmative action, welfare, multiculturalism, and community.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how these concepts and principles of political philosophy, especially where they involve issues of social justice, equality, liberty and citizenship, have been involved in the historical and present experience of at least three of the following groups: African American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino American, European American, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, and Americans of Middle Eastern origin.

Topics and Scope:

1. Topics: Classes will typically cover the basic concepts and issues of political philosophy. These include rights, liberty, governmental authority and legitimacy, interpreting constitutions, citizenship, justification of communal values, finding unity within diversity, and respect for diversity.
2. Scope: The focus of the course is on the concepts and issues of political philosophy which are relevant for a student understanding and reflecting on contemporary political issues. Historical background will be presented in order to provide for a good understanding and appreciation of contemporary issues. The experience of at least three of following groups will be emphasized: African American, Asian American Chicano/Latino American, European American, Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, and Americans of Middle Eastern origin.
3. Sequence: The sequence may vary according to the instructor and the needs of the students. A typical sequence is as follows:
 1. Introduction: the nature of philosophical reflection and the special issues of political philosophy.
 2. The basic issue of governmental legitimacy. Various theories about what justifies state power over individuals.
 3. The rights of the individual: liberty, human rights, political rights, negative and positive rights.
 4. Rights and responsibilities involved in citizenship.
 5. Theories of constitutional interpretation.
 6. Common, shared values: procedural values and substantive values. What procedural values are necessary to hold a community together? What substantive values are necessary within a society?
 7. Issues of diversity and community within a society, individual and group identity and dignity.
 8. Systematic political philosophies and differing views of human nature and human society: conservatism, liberalism, communitarianism, democratic socialism, Confucian political ideals.

Assignment:

While varying, assignments for Philosophy 9 typically involve:

1. Regularly assigned reading from course texts.
2. Regular multiple choice and/or short essay quizzes covering the assigned readings.
3. Essays and/or exams. Exams will include essay questions. Papers typically will be two to ten pages.
4. Final examination involving true/false, multiple choice, fill-in, and 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.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Written homework, Essay exams, Term papers | Writing 50 - 85% |
| 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. | |
| Multiple choice, True/false, FILL-IN | Exams 10 - 45% |
| Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories. | |
| ATTENDANCE AND/OR PARTICIPATION | Other Category 5 - 20% |

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: AN INTRODUCTION, Will Kymlicka, Oxford, pb., 1995.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY, Rite Manning and Rene Trujillo, Mayfield, 1996.

THINKING ABOUT RACE, Naomi Zack, Wadsworth, 1998.

AN INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, Jonathan Wolff, Oxford, 1996.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: THE DEMOCRATIC VISION OF

POLITICS, Lesley Jacobs, Prentice Hall, 1997.

RACE MATTERS, Cornell West, Vintage Books, 1994.

MULTICULTURAL CITIZENSHIP: A LIBERAL THEORY OF MINORITY RIGHTS, Will Kymlicka, Oxford, pb., 1995.