POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL THEORY

BACHELOR IN POLITICS, LAW AND ECONOMICS

Professor: THOMAS KRUIPER
E-mail: tkruiper@faculty.ie.edu

Academic year: 18-19
Degree course: SECOND
Semester: 1º
Category: BASIC
Number of credits: 6.0
Language: English

PREREQUISITES

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the central authors and ideas of western political theory throughout history by means of a close reading of a selection of key texts.

The course is structured around ideas which have shaped the political reality of the West from Antiquity to the present day, focusing on how they were brought about and under what circumstances. Within each unit the analysis will be chronological, thereby highlighting the particular circumstances in which these ideas were conceived and evolved.

The course provides students with the necessary theoretical basis for a critical understanding of contemporary political structures and movements as well as an authoritative outlook on the emergence and evolution of political thought.

Students will develop the ability to read, understand, digest and debate the ideas covered in the course. This will ultimately allow them to fully understand the complex origins of current political systems, debates and conflicts.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

Objectives
1. Providing students with basic concepts central to political theory and become acquainted with foundational texts of political thought.
2. Placing ideas and ideologies in their historical context.
3. Articulating and observing how ideas evolve and develop over time.

Skills
1. Use of and sensitivity towards primary texts.
2. The analysis and critical assessment of arguments and theories.
3. Developing an understanding of historical perspective.
4. The ability to formulate and express a persuasive argument or position in written work.
METHODOLOGY

Seminars: The course is divided into thirteen double-session seminars of approximately three hours. Preparation for each seminar includes reading approximately 60 pages related to each topic BEFORE coming to class. Students are encouraged to summarize the readings so as to facilitate participation during the seminars.

Debates and Class exercises: Typically, the first half of each seminar (90 min) is a lecture by the professor in which the main concepts of the seminar's topic are explained. The second half of each seminar is reserved for questions, class discussions, debates, and other in-class exercises. Students are expected to participate actively in these discussions.

Essays: Outside of the seminars and the exams (see below), students are expected to write four short essays related to the seminars of their choosing. Essays always have to be handed in during the week following the seminar at hand, and at least two of the essays have to be written before the midterm exam. The professor will provide an essay suggestion for each week, related to the seminar's debate or exercise. Details can be found below and will be discussed at the start of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching methodology</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>33.33 %</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>6.67 %</td>
<td>10 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises</td>
<td>26.67 %</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group work</td>
<td>0.0 %</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other individual studying</td>
<td>33.33 %</td>
<td>50 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100.0 %</td>
<td>150 hours</td>
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PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2 (FACE TO FACE)
Intro: Social Critique and Political Theory
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Plato and Michael Sandel and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a workshop in which students learn how to write a good essay.
R.A.: Plato. Crito
R.A.: Sandel. Doing the Right Thing
Other: Rubric for Essays

SESSIONS 3 - 4 (FACE TO FACE)
Natural Authority
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Aristotle and Salisbury and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a debate about 'who deserves what?', based on an extra reading by Michael Sandel.
R.A.: Aristotle. Politea
R.A.: Salisbury. Policraticus
Other: Sandel. Who Deserves What?

SESSIONS 5 - 6 (FACE TO FACE)
Actual Authority
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Machiavelli and Weber and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a case study about Brexit and Bureaucracy.
R.A.: Machiavelli. The Prince
R.A.: Weber. Politics as a Vocation
Other: EU Committee on Constitutional Affairs - Brexit and the EU

SESSIONS 7 - 8 (FACE TO FACE)
History and Inequality
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, and McIntosh and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a case study / debate on the sliding position of men in today's society.
R.A.: Rousseau. Discourse on the Origin of Inequality
R.A.: Wollstonecraft - Vindication of the Rights of Women
R.A.: McIntosh. White Privilege - Unpacking the Invisible Backpack
Other: Economist. The Weaker Sex
SESSIONS 9 - 10 (FACE TO FACE)
Authority and Free Consent
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Hobbes and Rousseau and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a debate on the state of nature, accompanied by an additional reading of Francis Fukuyama on tribal societies, justice, and war.
Other: Fukuyama. Tribal Societies, Justice, and War

SESSIONS 11 - 12 (FACE TO FACE)
Justice
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Plato and Rawls and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a workshop in which groups of students make their own social contracts.
R.A.: Plato. Republic Book 1
Other: Sandel. The Case for Equality - Rawls

SESSIONS 13 - 14 (FACE TO FACE)
Midterm Exam
In the last session before the exam there will be (a) a Q&A session about the exam, and (b) a study sheet with all the potential questions one can expect on the exam. The exam itself will take 2 hours and tests the understanding of the main concepts of the first half of the course.

SESSIONS 15 - 16 (FACE TO FACE)
Power to the People I: Revolution
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Paine and Arendt and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a workshop in which groups of students do research on a contemporary revolution and the reasons it succeeded or failed.
T.N.: Paine. Rights of Man
Other: Economist. How the 16th century invented social media
Other: Fidel Castro. History will absolve me
Other: Gandhi. Two Speeches
Other: King. Letter from Birmingham Jail

SESSIONS 17 - 18 (FACE TO FACE)
Power to the People II: Democracy
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by de Tocqueville and Dahl and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a workshop in which groups of students analyse the democratic breakdown of a country of their choice.
R.A.: Tocqueville. Democracy in America
SESSIONS 19 - 20 (FACE TO FACE)
Elitism and Conservatism
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Burke and Strauss and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a debate on the value and usefulness of referenda.
R.A.: Burke. Reflections on the Revolution in France
R.A.: Strauss. Natural Right and History
Other: NYT. Why Referenda are not as Democratic as they seem.

SESSIONS 21 - 22 (FACE TO FACE)
Liberalism
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Berlin and Hayek and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a debate on the limits of liberalism, guided by an interview with Ayn Rand about selfishness.
R.A.: Berlin. Two Concepts of Liberty
R.A.: Hayek. The Road to Serfdom
Video: Mike Wallace interview with Ayn Rand - 1959

SESSIONS 23 - 24 (FACE TO FACE)
Socialism
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Cohen and Marx and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a debate about the relevance of Marxism in contemporary society, guided by a 2018 article of a former Greek minister of finance, Yanis Varoufakis.
R.A.: Cohen. Why not Socialism?
R.A.: Marx. Estranged Labor
Other: Varoufakis. Communist Manifesto

SESSIONS 25 - 26 (FACE TO FACE)
Feminism
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Fraser and Butler and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a debate on gender issues at IE.
R.A.: Fraser. Feminism, Capitalism, and the Cunning of History

SESSIONS 27 - 28 (FACE TO FACE)
Nationalism and Race
The first session is a seminar in which we discuss texts by Mazzini and Fanon and the main concepts they discuss in their texts. The second session is a Q&A session for the final exam.
R.A.: Mazzini. Nationalism and Nationality
T.N.: Fanon. The Fact of Blackness

SESSIONS 29 - 30
Final Exam
BIBLIOGRAPHY

A collection of texts will be provided in the course pack available for students. All texts are available in PDF in the syllabus.

Whenever possible, we will use the Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought series (http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/philosophy/philosophy-texts/series/cambridge-texts-history-political-thought):

E. Burke, Revolutionary Writings (ISBN: 9780521605090)
F. von Hayek, The Road to Serfdom (condensed edition, Reader's Digest edition of April 1945) (9781484170250)
K. Marx, Later Political Writings (ISBN: 9780521367394)
T. Paine, Political Writings (ISBN: 9780521667999)
M. Sandel, What is the Right Thing to Do? (ISBN: 9780374532505)
L. Strauss, Natural Right and History (9780226776941)
A. de Tocqueville, Democracy in America (ISBN: 9780140447606)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Exams (40%)
The midterm exam (15%) covers seminars 1 to 6. The final exam (25%) covers the course as a whole. During the last 30 minutes of the last session before each exam there will be (a) a Q&A session about what to expect in the exam and (b) a study sheet with all the potential questions that students should be able to answer in the exam.

Essays (40%)
You are required to write four short essays over the course of the semester. Instructions and topics assignments will be provided after the course has commenced. The essays will be graded in view of their content, structure, sources and references, and style. If you decide to write more than four essays, the best three grades will count. Those students who prefer to write 2 short essays and 1 longer essay have to request permission from the teacher in advance.

Quizzes (10%)
During the course, four (unannounced) reading quizzes, counting 2.5% of your total grade each, will be done to keep track of all the readings. Quizzes only serve to check whether students have read the texts and will not test student's knowledge or understanding of concepts.

**Participation (10%)**

You are required to read all texts of the seminar and participate in the debates in class as well as delivering reading responses in the form requested by you teacher.

Further details regarding the reading statements, written assignments, standards for participation, and the final exam will be provided at the beginning of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examen Final</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Tests</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Work</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Examen Final</td>
<td>0 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course.

Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year).

Students who are in the third or fourth attempt should contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

**RETAKE POLICY**

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.

The exam will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.

The third attempt will require the student to complete:

- a written assignment
- a final exam

This is also applicable to students who do not have required attendance, e.g. sickness.

Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.
PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: THOMAS KRUIPER

E-mail: tkruiper@faculty.ie.edu

Bio Thomas Kruiper

Thomas Kruiper is an associate professor at the IE school of international relations. He specializes in Conflict Studies, Development Cooperation, Political Theory and African Studies. At IE he teaches courses on Political Theory and Comparative Politics of Africa. He also teaches at Saint Louis University in Madrid. Besides his teaching activities he works as an independent consultant in Africa, with a focus on the NGO sector in Liberia. He is also an associate researcher at ReSeT, a Madrid-Based think tank on international relations and transnational governance. He is a PhD candidate at the University, and he received masters degrees from the Universities of Amsterdam (2009, International Relations) and Valencia (2011, International Law)

OTHER INFORMATION

Office Hours:
After Class or on appointment.

Contact Details:

tkruiper@faculty.ie.edu
+34 670859974
CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. **Be on time**: Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as “Absent”. Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

2. **If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart.** It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.

3. **Do not leave the room during the lecture:** Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as “Absent”.

Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

4. **Do not engage in side conversation.** As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class.

If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

5. **Use your laptop for course-related purposes only.** The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

6. **No cellular phones:** IE University implements a “Phone-free Classroom” policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.

7. **Escalation policy: 1/3/5.** Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as “Absent.” IE University implements an “escalation policy”: The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.