



I. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Subject and Number: Philosophy 117
Descriptive Title: Political Philosophy
Course Disciplines: Philosophy or Political Science
Division: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Catalog Description:

In this course, students will examine political theory as presented in the primary works of major Western thinkers from Plato to Marx. Fundamental issues to be explored include human nature, justice, power, the role of the state, and the legitimate scope of government.

Note: Philosophy 117 is the same course as Political Science 7.

Conditions of Enrollment:

Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment

Course Length:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full Term	Other (Specify number of weeks):
Hours Lecture:	3.00 hours per week	TBA
Hours Laboratory:	0 hours per week	TBA
Course Units:	3.00	

Grading Method: Letter
Credit Status: Associate Degree Credit

Transfer CSU: Effective Date: 12/16/2013
Transfer UC: Effective Date: Fall 2014

General Education:

El Camino College:
2B – Social and Behavioral Sciences – Political Science
 Term: Fall 2014 Other:
2C – Social and Behavioral Sciences – General
 Term: Fall 2014 Other:
3 – Humanities
 Term: Fall 2014 Other:

CSU GE:
C2 - Humanities
 Term: Other:
D8 - Political Science, Government, and Legal Institutions
 Term: Other:

IGETC:
3B - Humanities
 Term: Other:
4H - Political Science, Government & Legal Institutions
 Term: Other:

II. OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

A. COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (The course student learning outcomes are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each. Student learning outcomes are not subject to review, revision or approval by the College Curriculum Committee)

1. Greek Philosophers: In a written essay, students will analyze how philosophers, from ancient Greece through the modern era, have considered and conceptualized a variety of ideas critical to the discourse of political theory.
2. The State: In a written essay, students will describe and assess the value of a state based on privilege versus one based on equality, and the apparent conflict between liberty and equality in a democratic state.
3. Social Justice: In a written essay, students will describe and analyze the different theories of the “just state,” and compare and contrast their ideas on political power and social justice.

The above SLOs were the most recent available SLOs at the time of course review. For the most current SLO statements, visit the El Camino College SLO webpage at <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/slo/>.

B. Course Student Learning Objectives (The major learning objective for students enrolled in this course are listed below, along with a representative assessment method for each)

1. Analyze and interpret the writings of Western classical and modern political theorists.
 - Essay exams
2. Distinguish between the descriptive and normative elements of political thinking.
 - Essay exams
3. Identify and evaluate the changing roles of Western political theory, and the relation between theory and practice.
 - Essay exams
4. Assess and analyze the theoretical foundations of enduring political questions including the role of the state, the obligation of citizens/subjects to the state and vice versa, basic values that should be pursued, and to what end, and by what means those values should be pursued.
 - Essay exams
5. Distinguish between various philosophical conceptions of the social contract.
 - Essay exams
6. Explain and analyze the concept of natural law.
 - Essay exams
7. Identify and explain the foundations of political legitimacy and how it may be maintained.
 - Essay exams
8. Explain and distinguish the relation between theories of human nature and conceptions of the just state.
 - Essay exams

III. OUTLINE OF SUBJECT MATTER (Topics are detailed enough to enable a qualified instructor to determine the major areas that should be covered as well as ensure consistency from instructor to instructor and semester to semester.)

Lecture or Lab	Approximate Hours	Topic Number	Major Topic
Lecture	5	I	Introduction to Political Theory A. Definition of Political Theory B. Human Nature and Political Theory C. Relevance of Political Theory for Today
Lecture	8	II	Introduction to Plato and Aristotle A. Perspectives on Human Nature B. Requisite Conditions for Good Governance: Justifications of Power C. Plato's Cave Analogy D. Aristotle's Alternative Forms of Government
Lecture	6	III	Introduction to Machiavelli A. Examination of Power: Acquisition, Limitations, and Relationship of Legitimacy B. Perspectives on Human Nature C. Role of the State
Lecture	8	IV	Hobbes-Locke A. The Nature of Man B. Impact on the Nature of Government and Society C. Rights and Obligations of the Citizens and the State D. The Social Contract Theory
Lecture	6	V	Rousseau A. The Nature of Man and the Stages of Transformation of Human Nature B. The Social Contract and the General Will C. Rousseau's Meaning of Freedom: Significance of the Individual
Lecture	6	VI	Rousseau in Comparison to John Stuart Mill A. Nature of Freedom and the Individual B. Essential Character and Ends of Government
Lecture	6	VII	Marx A. Overview of Historical Materialism B. The Dialectic and the March of History C. Examination of Alienation
Lecture	9	VIII	Application of Theoretical Debates to the Contemporary World A. Liberty Versus Equality B. Rule of Privilege (Elitism) Versus Equality C. Limits on Liberty in the Modern States D. Ethnic and Gender Differences
Total Lecture Hours		54	
Total Laboratory Hours		0	
Total Hours		54	

IV. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION AND SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

A. PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Substantial writing assignments

B. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENT USING PRIMARY METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Read a selection in the text from Aristotle and consider the following: What types of inquiry does Aristotle consider in formulating his conclusions? Why is man a political animal? What is a political community? What makes one a citizen? In a four- to five-page essay, critically analyze these issues and integrate readings from other thinkers.

C. COLLEGE-LEVEL CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. It has been argued by Rousseau that an individual finds fulfillment and freedom only as a member of the whole community. How does this version of liberty differ from those of John Locke or John Stuart Mill? Write a three- to five-page essay analyzing these divergent opinions and explain why you think one or the other has greater validity.
2. After closely reading the material in your text, write a three- to five-page essay on the advantages of a state based on the rule of privilege. Incorporate the arguments presented by a minimum of two of the philosophers studied. After explaining the positive aspects, critique your position by referring to a selection of relevant philosophers (your choice).

D. OTHER TYPICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION METHODS:

Essay exams
Objective Exams
Class Performance
Term or other papers

V. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Discussion
Lecture

Note: In compliance with Board Policies 1600 and 3410, Title 5 California Code of Regulations, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Sections 504 and 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, instruction delivery shall provide access, full inclusion, and effective communication for students with disabilities.

VI. WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Study
Required reading
Written work

Estimated Independent Study Hours per Week: 6

VII. TEXTS AND MATERIALS

A. UP-TO-DATE REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS

Stephen Chan, ed. Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts. 3rd ed. Oxford, 2014 (Discipline Standard).
 W. Julian Karab-Karpowicz. On the History of Political Philosophy: Great Political Thinkers from Thucydides to Locke. 1st ed. Routledge, 2017.

B. ALTERNATIVE TEXTBOOKS

C. REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

D. OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS

Excerpts of original texts from, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Machiavelli, and Marx.

VIII. CONDITIONS OF ENROLLMENT

A. Requisites (Course and Non-Course Prerequisites and Corequisites)

Requisites	Category and Justification
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B. Requisite Skills

Requisite Skills

C. Recommended Preparations (Course and Non-Course)

Recommended Preparation	Category and Justification
English 1	Category: Course Justification: This course involves reading college level textbooks and answering essay questions. A student’s success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.
Eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment	Category: Non-Course Justification: This course involves reading college level textbooks and answering essay questions. A student’s success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.

D. Recommended Skills

Recommended Skills
Students need well-developed reading skills in order to understand and interpret information in their textbooks and writing skills to answer essay exam questions.
ENGL 1 – Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts.
ENGL 1 – Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.

E. Enrollment Limitations

Enrollment Limitations and Category	Enrollment Limitations Impact
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Course created by Elizabeth Shadish on 09/12/2013.

BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 12/16/2013

LAST BOARD APPROVAL DATE: 11/18/2019

**Last Reviewed and/or Revised by: Felipe Leon
18752**

Date: 9/20/2019