

Political Science 7

Political Philosophy

3 unit; 3 hours lecture

*Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Degree applicable Transfer CSU and UC*

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

Course Objectives:

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 exam
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

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

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.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>