

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

**Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Economics PPLE
SEP-2023 MCPP-PP.2.S.A**

Area Humanities

Number of sessions: 30

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: SECOND

Number of credits: 6.0

Semester: 1^o

Category: BASIC

Language: English

Professor: **MARIANA NIETHARDT DEL CASTILLO**

E-mail: mniethardt@faculty.ie.edu

MARIANA NIETHARDT DEL CASTILLO

Mariana Niethardt holds a PhD in Political Philosophy and a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy by Universidad Pontificia Comillas. She also teaches "Legal Thought" and "The Philosophy of Happiness" at IE. She has worked for many years at "The School of Philosophy" in Madrid.

mniethardt@faculty.ie.edu

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Ideas about politics shape the past, present and future of human society, and therefore human life. This course introduces students to many of the central authors and ideas of western political theory from antiquity through to the modern day. The course adopts a historical framework from within which to survey ideas, such as justice, authority, freedom, equality, and morality, which have helped shape human societies over our history.

The course provides students with the theoretical foundations 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, claims and conflicts.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Objectives

1. Providing students with basic concepts central to political theory and acquainting them with foundational texts of political thought.
2. Placing ideas and ideologies in their historical context.
3. Explaining key arguments for and against different values and institutional arrangements.

Skills

1. Use of and sensitivity towards primary texts.
2. The analysis and critical assessment of arguments and theories.
3. The ability to formulate and express a persuasive argument or position in written work.
4. The ability to intervene effectively in discussion.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	26.67 %	40.0 hours
Discussions	26.67 %	40.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	23.33 %	35.0 hours
Group work	13.33 %	20.0 hours
Individual studying	10.0 %	15.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150.0 hours

PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction. What is Political Philosophy?

PART I: MODERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Modern Political Philosophy

Book Chapters: "What is Political Philosophy?", in Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey (ed.). History of Political Philosophy. The University of Chicago Press. (ced)

Book Chapters: "The Three Waves of Modernity", in Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey (ed.). History of Political Philosophy. The University of Chicago Press. (ced)

SESSIONS 3 - 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

How to analyse Modern Political Philosophy

Power: N. Machiavelli

Book Chapters: Oakeshott, M., "The History of Political Thought" and "Morality and Government in Modern Europe" (ced)

Book Chapters: Machiavelli, N., "The Prince", Ch. 8, 15, 17-18 and 21-25. (ced)

SESSION 5 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Disruption: Utopia

SESSIONS 6 - 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Authority: Hobbes

Rights: Locke

Book Chapters: Hobbes, T., "Leviathan", Ch. 13, 17 and 18. (ced)

Book Chapters: Locke, J., "Second Treatise of Government", Ch. 2, 3, 5 and 6. (ced)

SESSIONS 8 - 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Government: Montesquieu

Equality: Rousseau

Book Chapters: Montesquieu, "The Spirit of the Laws", Books 2, 3 and 8. (ced)

Book Chapters: Rousseau, J.J., "A dissertation on the origin and foundation of the inequality of mankind" (Second part) (ced)

SESSIONS 10 - 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Liberty: Mill

Disruption: Revolution

Book Chapters: Mill, J.S., "On Liberty", Ch. 3. (ced)

Book Chapters: Constant, B., "The Liberty of Ancients Compared with that of Moderns". (ced)

Multimedia Material: Video: "The Battle Of Algiers" (1966) (Youtube)

SESSIONS 12 - 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Disruption: Civil disobedience

Individualism: Tocqueville

Book Chapters: Thoreau, H., "Civil disobedience" (ced)

Book Chapters: Tocqueville, A., "Democracy in America". Vol II, Part II, Ch. 2. (ced)

Book Chapters: Tocqueville, A., "Democracy in America". Vol II, Part II, Ch. 3. (ced)

Book Chapters: Tocqueville, A., "Democracy in America". Vol II, Part II, Ch. 4. (ced)

Book Chapters: Tocqueville, A., "Democracy in America". Vol II, Part II, Ch. 8. (ced)

SESSIONS 14 - 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Socialism

Marxism

Book Chapters: Newman, M. "Socialism. A very short introduction" (ced)

Book Chapters: Marx, K. and Engels, F., "Manifesto of the Communist Party" (ced)

SESSION 16 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Disruption: Anarchy

SESSIONS 17 - 18 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Nationalism

Totalitarianism

Article: Berlin, I., "The bent twig: a note on nationalism"; (Foreign Affairs , Oct., 1972, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Oct., 1972), pp. 11-30 (ced))

Book Chapters: Arendt, H., "On the Nature of Totalitarianism: an essay in understanding" (ced)

SESSIONS 19 - 20 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Disruption: War

PART II: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Introduction to Contemporary Political Philosophy

Book Chapters: Schmitt, C., "The concept of the political", Parts 3 and 5. (ced)

SESSIONS 21 - 22 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Utilitarianism

Liberal Equality

Book Chapters: Kymlicka, W., "Contemporary political philosophy", Ch. Utilitarianism. (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Kymlicka, W., "Contemporary political philosophy", Ch. Liberal Equality. (See Bibliography)

SESSIONS 23 - 24 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Libertarianism

Communitarianism

Book Chapters: Kymlicka, W., "Contemporary political philosophy", Ch. Libertarianism. (See Bibliography)

Book Chapters: Kymlicka, W., "Contemporary political philosophy", Ch. Communitarianism. (See Bibliography)

SESSION 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

EXAM

SESSIONS 26 - 27 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

PART III: DEMOCRACY

Democracy

Challenges to democracy:

Tolerance, Consensus, Transparency, Terrorism, Populism, Globalization and Citizenship, Multiculturalism and Immigration, Feminism, Gender...

Article: Elliot, J., "Joseph A. Schumpeter and The Theory of Democracy"; (Review of Social Economy, WINTER 1994, Vol. 52, No. 4) (ced)

Article: Dahl, R., "A Democratic Paradox?" (Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 115, No. 1 (Spring, 2000), pp. 35-40) (ced)

SESSIONS 28 - 29 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Challenges to democracy:

Tolerance, Consensus, Transparency, Terrorism, Populism, Globalization and Citizenship, Multiculturalism and Immigration, Feminism, Gender...

SESSION 30 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

The future of Political Philosophy.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Your final grade will be weighted in the following way:

Continuous evaluation (25%): three main criteria will be used to grade: reading responses, attendance, and active participation in class. The depth and quality of your contributions will be the most important dimension regarding participation. Class conduct is also important. A high quality presentation of ideas must consider the relevance and timing of comments, and the flow and content of the ensuing class discussion. It demands comments that are concise and clear, and that are conveyed with a spirit of involvement in the discussion at hand.

Short Essays and Others (45%): throughout the course you will have to write a couple of short essays, participate in a Group Work presentation and any other individual activity required, such as asynchronous sessions.

Essays should be submitted through Turnitin in online campus.

Essays will be marked according to Structure (25%), Style (25%) and Content (50%) which also includes the appropriate and correct use of sources. In each criteria, the following points have to be observed:

Structure:

- The general plan of the essay
- The connection between ideas exposed
- The inclusion of a conclusion
- The existence of paragraphs corresponding to ideas or concepts.

Style:

- The absence of grammatical mistakes
- The proper use of academic English corresponding to college level
- The adequate use of sources and quotations

Content:

- The level of originality in the essay
- The argumentative level of the essay
- The relevance of the information contained in it, without being a mere summary
- The adequacy of the content to the question proposed
- The logical connections between presentation of ideas and final conclusions
- The relevance of such conclusions without being a mere tautology.

Final Exam (30%): more details will be provided in due course.

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Final Exam	30 %		
Other	45 %		
Continuous evaluation	25 %		

**RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY
RETAKE POLICY**

Each student has four (4) chances to pass any given course distributed over two (2) consecutive academic years. Each academic year consists of two calls: one (1) ordinary call (during the semester when the course is taking place); and one (1) extraordinary call (or “re-sit”) in June/July.

Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance requirement in each subject during the semester will automatically fail both calls (ordinary and extraordinary) for that Academic Year and have to re-take the course (i.e., re-enroll) during the next Academic Year.

Regarding to the newly implemented ‘liquid learning’ model, all students must still abide by the same IEU attendance policy, including those students who are connecting remotely to class sessions and not physically in the classroom because they are unable to be physically in Spain, on campus. During the sessions, students connecting remotely are required to fully connect their camera and microphone at all times, and must actively participate during the sessions (using all necessary audiovisual equipment), just as their fellow peers who are physically present in the classroom on campus.

The Extraordinary Call Evaluation criteria will be subject to the following rules:

Students failing the course in the ordinary call (during the semester) will have to re-sit evaluation for the course in June / July (except those students who do not comply with the attendance rule, and therefore will not have that opportunity, since they will fail both calls and must directly re-enroll in the course during the next Academic Year).

It is not permitted to change the format nor the date of the extraordinary call exams or deadlines under any circumstance. All extraordinary call evaluation dates will be announced in advance and must be taken into consideration before planning the summer (e.g. internships, trips, holidays, etc.)

The June/July re-sit will consist of a comprehensive evaluation of the course. Your final grade for the course will depend on the performance in this exam or evaluation only. I.e., continuous evaluation over the semester (e.g. participation, quizzes, projects and/or other grade components over the semester) will not be taken into consideration on the extraordinary call. Students will have to achieve the minimum passing grade of 5 and the maximum grade will be capped at 8.0 (out of 10.0) – i.e., “notable” in the extraordinary call.

Re-takers: Students who failed the subject on a previous Academic Year and are now reenrolled as re-takers in a course will need to check the syllabus of the assigned professor, as well as contact the professor individually, regarding the specific evaluation criteria for them as re-takers in the course during that semester (ordinary call of that Academic Year). The maximum grade that may be obtained as a retaker during the ordinary call (i.e., the 3rd call) is 10.0 (out of 10.0).

After exams and other assessments are graded by the professor (on either the ordinary or extraordinary call), students will have a possibility to attend a review session (whether it be a final exam, a final project, or the final overall grade in a given course). Please be available to attend the session in order to clarify any concerns you might have regarding your grade. Your professor will inform you about the time and place of the review session.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person’s ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor’s permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don’t know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. For help with your academic writing, contact the Writing Center (writingcenter@faculty.ie.edu). The professor will also advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments must be submitted through Turn-it-in, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. Students using external tutorial support should report it to the professor and the Program Management from the moment they began receiving this support. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the Academic Review Panel. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Review Panel. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

- Will Kymlicka. (2001). *Contemporary Political Philosophy*. 2nd. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780198782742 (Printed)

Recommended

- Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey (ed.). *History of Political Philosophy*. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN 9780226924717 (Printed)

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

