

# **POLITICAL THEORY**

**IE University**

Professor: **OSCAR MARTINEZ TAPIA**

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Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: FIRST

Semester: 1<sup>o</sup>

Category: BASIC

Number of credits: 6.0

Language: English

## **PREREQUISITES**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## **SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**

Ideas about politics and society shape the history, present and future of human society, and therefore human life. This course introduces students to the central authors and ideas of western political theory by reading of a selection of classic and contemporary texts. The course surveys ideas, such as authority, freedom and equality, which have helped shape societies from antiquity to the present day, highlighting both their historical context and continued relevance.

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.

## **OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS**

### **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.

## **METHODOLOGY**

**Sync Face to Face Seminars:** Preparation for each seminar includes reading related to each topic BEFORE coming to class. Students are encouraged to summarize the readings so as to facilitate participation during the seminars.

**Debates & Discussions:** Typically, the class will be based on lectures with active participation of the students. Questions and debates are welcome and students are expected to participate actively in these discussions.

**Async Assignments:** Students will have to complete the different async assignments which will consist of videos/articles/pieces to comment and write a report on.

**Midterm & Final Exam:** Students will be evaluated on their performance in a Midterm and Final exams. Review sessions will be held before both tests and a pool of possible questions will be given.

**Term Research Paper:** Students will write an individual term research paper to prove their ability on sustaining an argument in written form. Students will choose their own research question before Oct. 15th, send it to professor through email for approval and essays will be submitted in class in Session 30 (guidelines will be given on Session 1 in class).

**Zeitgeist Project:** Students will have to pick a book from the project's list and write a 3000 words report on the "spirit" of the book chosen.

Teaching methodology	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	40.0 %	60 hours
Discussions	13.33 %	20 hours
Exercises	6.67 %	10 hours
Group work	0.0 %	0 hours
Other individual studying	40.0 %	60 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150 hours

## PROGRAM

### SESSIONS 1 - 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to the Course. Rules of the Game

INTRODUCTION TO FICTIONS

*Book Chapters: INVENTING THE PEOPLE: The Rise of Populard Sovereignty in England and America (chapters 1,2,3); NORTON & COMPANY (ced)*

*Book Chapters: McClelland, Chapters 8 & 9 (See Bibliography)*

*Book Chapters: The Prince (Machiavelli) - pp. 11-22, 31-44 (ced)*

*Book Chapters: The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century - Intro (ced)*

### SESSIONS 3 - 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

2. The Renaissance. The beginning of the end.

*Book Chapters: Leviathan - Part 1, Chs. 14 and 15, Part II, Chs. 17-19, 21 (CED)*

*Book Chapters: The Social Contract - Book I, Ch. 1-9; Book II, ch. 4-6; book 3 (CED)*

*Book Chapters: McClelland, Chapters 8 & 9 (See Bibliography)*

## **SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

5. Authority and free consent

*Book Chapters: McClelland, Chap. 10 (See Bibliography)*

## **SESSION 6 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Assync ASSIGNMENT 1: Online Assignment

## **SESSIONS 7 - 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

4. History and (in)equality. The French Revolution

Social Contract. the Lockian Version

*Book Chapters: McClelland, Chaps. 11, 12 & 13 (See Bibliography)*

*Book Chapters: The French Revolution. Recent Debates & New Controversies - Intro (CED)*

## **SESSION 9 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Assync ASSIGNMENT 2: Online Assignment

## **SESSION 10 (LIVE ONLINE)**

THE ALL EMBRACING FICTION: "THE PEOPLE"  
CLASS DISCUSSION

## **SESSIONS 11 - 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

THE RISE OF LIBERALISM

It is difficult to understand where and who we are without the liberalism movement. We discuss the origin, real weight and development of Liberalism. Special attention will be given to historical context (French Revolution, Napoleonic order, limitation of monarchies, etc.)

*Book Chapters: TEXT BOOK PART V: Enlightenment and the development of the Modern State (277-401) (See Bibliography)*

*Book Chapters: TEXT BOOK PART VI: The Rise of Liberalism (Pages 427-481) (See Bibliography)*

*Article: Immanuel Kant (Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy)*

*Book Chapters: Democracy in America - Chapter 3 (CED)*

## **SESSION 13 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Assync ASSIGNMENT 3: Online Assignment

## **SESSION 14 (LIVE ONLINE)**

WHAT IS Revolution?

Review for the Midterm

*Book Chapters: On Revolution - Chapter 1. The Meaning of Revolution (CED)*

## **SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

### **MIDTERM EXAM**

## **SESSION 16 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

THE LONG XIX CENTURY (1789-1914). WHAT IS NEW? How are we going to organise this mess?

Reading: TB

## **SESSIONS 17 - 18 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

THE LONG XIX CENTURY (1789-1914). REACTIONS TO LIBERALISM. POPULATION POLITICS, BOURGEOIS ORDER, SECULARISM, SOCIALISM, MARXISM AND THE COMING OF MODERNITY

The XIX Century is the great laboratory of modernity. We will study the historical context and the creation of new ideas that will change the world. From Malthus, Eugenics, Nationalism, Imperialism to Marx, Engels, Kierkegaard, Darwin, Freud, Durkheim and Nietzsche.

*Book Chapters: Population Politics in Twentieth-Century Europe - pp. 1-17, 129-139 (CED)*

*Book Chapters: The Concept of Anxiety - Introduction (CED)*

*Book Chapters: The Marx-Engels Reader - The German Ideology (K. Marx), pp.146-175 (CED)*

*Book Chapters: The Early Marx - Alienation & Feuerbach (pp.133-145) (CED)*

*Book Chapters: Suicide. A Study in Sociology (E. Durkheim) - pp.9-32 (CED)*

*Book Chapters: Thus Spake Zarathustra (Nietzsche) - Intro (CED)*

## **SESSION 19 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Assync ASSIGNMENT 4: Online Assignment

## **SESSION 20 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Demographics matter. Babybooms, Secularization, First Demographic Transition, Love vs Sex, Eugenics. What is going on

*Book Chapters: Population Politics in Twentieth-Century Europe - pp. 1-17, 129-139 (CED)*

*Article: Fertility, mortality, migration, and population scenarios for 195 countries and territories from 2017 to 2100: A forecasting analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study (The Lancet, Volume 396, Issue 10258) (ced)*

## **SESSION 21 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

19th Century: Transformation thru Art

In class discussion thru 19th century paintings

## **SESSION 22 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Assync ASSIGNMENT 5: Online Assignment

## **SESSIONS 23 - 24 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Marx was a Liberal. Socialism & Beyond

*Article: Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844 - Estranged Labour (CED)*

*Book Chapters: The Marx-Engels Reader - The German Ideology (K. Marx), pp.146-175 (CED)*

*Book Chapters: McClelland, Chap. 23 (See Bibliography)*

*Video: The Young Karl Marx*

## **SESSION 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

Feminism. Bye bye Old World

*Article: Feminism, Capitalism and the Cunning of History (New Left Review) (CED)*

*Book Chapters: Gender Trouble - Chapter 3. Subversive Bodily Acts; Conclusion (CED)*

## **SESSION 26 (ASYNCHRONOUS)**

Assync ASSIGNMENT 6: Online Assignment

## **SESSION 27 (LIVE ONLINE)**

13. Class Discussion: Prohibition

*Book Chapters: Drink: A Social History of America - The Bane of the Nation (IE Library)*

*Video: Prohibition. A Nation of Drunkards (YouTube)*

## **SESSION 28 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

13. Nation, race and resistance

*Book Chapters: A Cosmopolitanism of Nations - Chapter 3. Three Essays on Cosmopolitan Ideals and National Sentiment (CED)*

*Book Chapters: Black Skin, White Masks - The Fact of Blackness (CED)*

*Other / Complementary Documentation: Mahatma Ghandi: Two speeches on non-violence:*

*Statement in the Great Trial of 1922*

## **SESSIONS 29 - 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)**

FINAL EXAM

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **Compulsory**

- J.S. McClelland.. (1996). *A History of Western Political Thought..* First.

Routledge.. ISBN 9780415119627 (Printed)

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## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Students must be ready to work hard, show will and positive attitude and engagement in class work both in Sync & Async sessions as well as group coordination and collaboration and individually assigned duties.

**Exams (50%)**

Essay Midterm: 20%

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a take-home open-book essay midterm exam. Students will be given FIVE questions a week before the exam from which the professor will select TWO for the examination. Ability to put an argument together alongside with the knowledge as well as topic connections will be valued. Student will receive the grade within two weeks of the examination.

Final Exam: 30%

Students will have to complete an open-book on-line exam on TWO questions the professor will select from the course material. There will be a 12 hours window to upload the final exam to the turnit in section in the course web. The students will have to prove full command of the topics as well as the ability to connect the dots of the larger picture.

### **Research Term Paper (20%)**

You are required to write a research term paper over the course of the semester. Instructions and topics assignments will be provided after the course has commenced. The essay will be graded in view of their content, structure, sources and references, and style.

### **Async Assignments (15%)**

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, Async written assignments, standards for participation, and the final exam will be provided at the beginning of the course.

**Sync participation (10 %).** You are required to actively participate in class discussions and contribute to the general class debates.

### **Zeitgeist Project (5 %)**

**Course requirements will include:**

- a) Weekly Readings
- b) Regular participation in both Sync & Async sessions
- c) Zeitgeist project
- d) Research Paper
- e) Final Exam

**The grading will operate as follows:**

Async performance: 15%

Participation & Discussion: 10 %

Midterm: 20%

Essay (due at the Final's day): 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Zeitgeist Project: 5%

### **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course. For every BIR Program mandatory class aside from the IR Unplugged and BIR Electives, students are required to obtain the minimum grade of 5 required to pass the course. Students whose grade in the Final Exam (or the largest assignment) is below 5 will fail the course. The rule applies to whichever assignment carries the greatest weight to the final grade. 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 must contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

The Bachelor's in International Relations pursues to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for bringing transformative and sustainable change in today's world. Therefore, all the courses follow the principles of sustainability and diversity. Firstly, this course considers the agenda 2030 and builds upon the Sustainable Development Goal 1 (end of poverty), 2 (hunger zero) and 5 (gender equality), 10 (inequality reduction) and 16 (peace, justice and better institutions). Secondly, this course is committed to an inclusive learning environment and looks to be enriched and enhanced by diversity along numerous dimensions, including race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, class and religion.

#### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory at IE University, as it is an essential factor of IE's learning methodology. While we do closely monitor attendance in each course, we also consider our students responsible for their own agenda and commitments, as adult university students. With that in mind, each student may miss up to 30% of the sessions within a given course and still maintain the possibility of passing that given course. This 30% "buffer" is to be used for any absences, such as: illnesses, personal emergencies, commitments, official/governmental matters, business and/or medical appointments, family situations, etc. Students should manage their various needs, and situations that may arise, within that 30% buffer. If a student is absent to more than the allowed 30% of the sessions (regardless of the reason), s/he will obtain a 0.0 grade for that course in both the ordinary and extraordinary calls of the current academic year, and s/he will have to retake the course during the following academic year.

Please pay close attention to your attendance. The program strongly encourages attending 100% of the sessions as it will improve your learning outcomes, it will increase the class performance and it will benefit your participation grade. Noncompliance with deadlines for Non-Classroom Learning activities or assignments will result in an absence for the session.

Extreme cases involving emergencies such as: extended hospitalizations, accidents, serious illnesses and other cases of force majeure, are to be consulted with the Program Management ([bir.madridoffice@ie.edu](mailto:bir.madridoffice@ie.edu)) for assessment of the situation and corresponding documentation, in order to support and guide each student optimally.

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Async Assignments	15 %	
Midterm	20 %	
Final Paper	20 %	
Zeitgeist Project	5 %	
Class Participation	10 %	
Final Exam	30 %	

#### 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.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

#### 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. The professor will advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments have to 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 BIR Program 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 BIR 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.

## PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: **OSCAR MARTINEZ TAPIA**

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### OSCAR MARTINEZ TAPIA

Oscar Martínez-Tapia received a PhD in political science from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where he also received a BA degree in Political Science and International Relations. In between, he received a Masters degree in Government from the University of Manchester (UK). He has been visiting fellow at the Center for the Study of Democracy (Univ. California, Irvine) and Harvard University. Outside academia, he has served as Communication Advisor (speechwriter) for the Vicepresident of Spain from 2005 to 2007. His research focuses on comparative analysis of parties and party systems with special attention to nationalist parties in Western Europe.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Office Hours:

By appointment.

### Contact Details:

[omartinez@faculty.ie.edu](mailto:omartinez@faculty.ie.edu)

## 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.

