GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 11/29/2022

Approved by GCCCD Governing Board: 12/13/2022

POLITICAL SCIENCE 150 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

POSC 150 Introduction to Political Theory 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture (48-54 total hours); 96-108 outside-of-class hours; 144-162 total hours

2. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

A comparative and conceptual analysis of the principal ideological and philosophical approaches to government. This course surveys the important political ideas and alternatives which have been suggested from ancient to modern times. A major emphasis of the course will be to introduce and clarify for the student the basic aspects of nationalism, democracy, Orthodox Marxism, anarchism, philosophical conservatism, New Left thought, feminism, environmentalism, transhumanism, fundamentalism, and fascism.

4. Course Objectives

Comprised of units to give perspectives on the origins, assumptions, logic, and ultimate arguments and influence on the contemporary world of the scholars and ideas listed in the course content which include:

1. Articulate, compare, and analyze through the use of social science methodology including process tracing, historical analysis, and textual analysis in understanding the political ideas of selected political theories and theorists.
2. Describe and analyze competing political theories and how they have impacted students directly, their culture, and their political experiences.
3. Compare, analyze, and criticize through a comparative approach different forms of governance including liberalism, authoritarianism, fascism, Marxism, socialism, feminism, environmentalism, transhumanism, and fundamentalism.
4. Identify and evaluate competing theories of political development as it applies to individuals, societies and groups, countries, and historical periods.
5. Identify and evaluate the political role of specific scholars in the shaping of the contemporary political world.
6. Identify and appraise the objectives, implications, and outcomes of specific political theorists and their ideas.
7. Describe, compare, and appraise the impact of the specified political theorists on questions of social justice, race, gender, and ethnicity.
8. Explain how theory differs from ideology.
9. Analyze and appraise the evolution of liberalism, fascism, Marxism and socialism, fundamentalism, and environmentalism over a historical period.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

1. Introduction to Political Theory.
2. Political theory and Political Philosophy.
3. Difference between ideology and theory.
4. Ancient and Classical Political Philosophy.
5. Thucydides.
6. Plato.
7. Aristophanes.
8. Aristotle.
9. St. Augustine.
10. Thinkers can vary based upon teacher’s expertise, for example someone may choose Sunzi, Kongzi, Laozi, the Bhagavad-Gita, the writings of King Ashoka, Israelite prophets, etc. as a reflection about the nature of politics etc.
11. Medieval Political Philosophy.
12. Aquinas.
13. Maimonides.
14. Al Farabi.
15. Thinkers may vary based upon teacher’s expertise, for example someone may want to teach Marsilius of Padua, Averroes, Xunzi, Ibn Khaldun, etc.
16. Modern Political Philosophy and the birth of Modern Ideologies.
17. Machiavelli.
18. Spinoza.
19. Hobbes.
20. Locke.
21. Rousseau.
22. Edmund Burke.
23. Thinkers may vary based upon teacher’s expertise, for example someone may want to teach Bartolomo de La Costa, Jefferson, the Federalist papers, Immanuel Kant, Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Hegel, John Stuart Mill, Mary Wollstonecraft, etc.
24. Contemporary Political Philosophy and Mass Movements.
25. Nietzsche.
26. Heidegger.
27. Fanon.
28. Hayek.
29. Thinkers may vary based upon teacher’s expertise, for example someone may want to teach Freud, Marcuse, Beauvoir, Voegelin, Rawls, Nozick, Arendt, Khomeini, Ali Mazrui, etc.

8. Method of Instruction

1. Class discussions
2. Lecture
3. Multimedia presentations
4. Documentaries and Films
5. Guest lecturers
6. Textual analysis on an individual and group level

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

1. Quizzes and examinations, including a final exam: multiple choice, true/false questions, objective, and analytical essay questions.
2. Research Paper: A written research paper in which the students engage a selected scholar’s texts or body of philosophical work for purposes of evaluation, analysis, and comparison of political theorist’s works with other scholars and the ideology’s relationship to theory or the individual in society.
3. Written Assignments: Weekly or bi-weekly written assignments in the form of two to three double-spaced pages in which students engage and analyze the texts of the scholars discussed during class.
4. Participation and Discussion: Students will be asked to evaluate and debate the themes and questions of a particular week as individuals or in a group structure during the course. This will be done in class settings and in the form of individual student debates with each other, or in assigned groups to discuss and debate the major themes, assumptions, and arguments of scholars.

10. Outside Class Assignments

1. Textbook reading.
2. Conducting research for oral and/or written reports on topics such as comparing political theorists, from theory to ideology, the individual and society.

11. Representative Texts

1. Representative Text(s):
2. Heywood, Andrew. *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*. 7th ed., Red Globe Press, 2021.
3. Ingersoll, David. *The Philosophic Roots of Modern Ideology:**Liberalism, Conservativism, Marxism, Fascism, Nazism*, *Islamism, Feminism*. 2017.
4. Strauss, Leo, and Joseph Cropsey. *History of Political Philosophy*. University of Chicago Press, 1987.
5. Supplementary texts and workbooks:
6. Arendt, Hannah. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1973.
7. Augustine, Saint. *The City of God: Selections and Introduction by Hans Urs von Balthasar*. Ignatius Press, 2021.
8. Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. Vintage, 2011.
9. Bookchin, Murray. *The Ecology of Freedom: The Emergence and Dissolution of Hierarchy*. AK Press, 2005.
10. Burke, Edmund. *The Portable Edmund Burke,* edited by Isaac Kramnick, Penguin Classics, 1999.
11. Camus, Albert. *The Rebel: An Essay on Man in Revolt*. Vintage, 2012.
12. Casas, Bartolome de las. *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*. Penguin Classics, 1999.
13. Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folks*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014.
14. Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press, 2021.
15. Gandhi, Mohandas K. *Mohandas K. Gandhi, Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*. Dover Publications, 1983.
16. Hayek, Friedrich. *The Road to Serfdom: Text and Documents—The Definitive Edition,* edited by Bruce Caldwell, University of Chicago Press, 2007.
17. Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Penguin Classics and Other Writings, 2012.
18. Khaldun, Ibn.*The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History – The Classic Islamic History of the World*. Princeton University Press, 2015.
19. Locke, John. *The First & Second Treatises of Government*. Pantianos, 2016.
20. Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*. Translated by Harvey C. Mansfield, University of Chicago Press, 1998.
21. Marti, Jose. *Our America: Writings on Latin America and the Struggle for Cuban Independence*. Monthly Review Press, 1977.
22. Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. *The German Ideology Includes: Theses on Feuerbach and the Introduction to the* *Critique of Political Economy*. Prometheus, 1998.
23. Mazrui, Ali A. *Cultural Forces in World Politics*. Heinemann, 1990.
24. Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morals*. Penguin Classics, 2014.
25. Plato. *Republic*. Translated by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2004.
26. Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *Of The Social Contract and Other Political Writings*, edited by Christopher Bertram. Translated by Quintin Hoare, Penguin Classics, 2012.
27. Spinoza, Baruch. *Theologico-Political Treatise.* Independently published, 2021.
28. Strauss, Leo. *What Is Political Philosophy? And Other Studies*. University of Chicago Press, 1988.
29. Vitoria, Francisco de. *Vitoria: Political Writings (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought),* edited by Anthony Pagden and Jeremy Lawrance, Cambridge University Press, 1992.
30. Voegelin, Eric. *Science, Politics & Gnosticism*. Intercollegiate Studies Institute, 2005.
31. X, Malcolm, and Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley*. Ballantine Books, 1992.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

1. Compare and contrast the various approaches to political theory by major political thinkers.
2. Assess the factors underpinning various ideologies and how these drive current political movements.
3. Critically evaluate different conceptualizations of the appropriate relationship between the individual and society.