

Approval: 8th Senate Meeting

Course Title: Political Philosophy

Course Number: HS606

Credits: 4-0-0-4

Pre-Requisites: For research scholars; familiarity with history of Western thought and Teachers Consent

Intended for: PG

Elective/Core: Elective

Course Preamble: This course seeks to sensitize scholars to the broad concerns of political philosophy and its underlying importance for comprehending a wide-ranging variety of discussions in the humanities subjects. If philosophy is understood as the quest for Truth, then its temporal translation, namely political philosophy, becomes the search for Justice. Such a search implies a deep correlation between the trans-temporal source of politics and the vision of the *polis* as *cosmion*, pointing to the ultimate goal of realizing a just human order centered on the vision of the Good Life. Through a representative collection of material excerpted from the writings of select political philosophers, the course offers a conspectus of the politico-philosophic undertaking from the classics to the modern.

Course Content: The course seeks to examine the following aspects: the human sense of justice; the quest for and the pursuit of the Good Life; the theoretical study of political life constituting political theory; political philosophy proceeding from the Classics to pose the problems of the unexamined life and to investigate political life as it ought to be; the search for the right order of public life, the constraints it encounters and the resources it seeks in its bid to tame power and compound the ruler and the ruled into the true frame of a commonweal.

Samplings from some of the following representative texts seek to familiarize the scholar with the long tradition of politico-philosophic writing:

1. Plato: *Republic*, Book II
2. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book III; *Politics*, Book II
3. Xenophon: *Cyropaedia*
4. St Augustine: *City of God*, Part II, Books xi to xiv;
5. Machiavelli: *Discorsi*, Book I, Chs. 1-20
6. Shakespeare: *The Tempest*
7. Montesquieu: *The Spirit of the Laws*, Book 17
8. Thomas Hobbes: *Leviathan*, Part I;
9. Rousseau: *Émile, or On Education*;
- 10.

Immanuel Kant: *Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View*; 11. Edmund Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*; 12. Karl Marx: Preface to the *Critique of Political Economy*; 13. John Stuart Mill: *Utilitarianism*; 14. Thoreau: *On Civil Disobedience*; 15. Gandhi: *Satyagraha*; 16. Carl Mitcham: *Technology and the Character of the Good Life*.

Prescribed Reading:

1. Cassirer, Ernst, *The Myth of the State*. New Haven/New York (Yale U.P.) 1946.
2. Germino, Dante, *Machiavelli to Marx*. *Modern Western Political Thought*. Chicago 1979.
3. White, Michael J., *Political Philosophy. An Historical Introduction*. Oxford 2003.

Select Bibliography:

1. Cohen, Martin, *Political Philosophy. From Plato to Mao*. London 2001.
2. Cushman, Robert E., *Therapeia. Plato's Conception of Philosophy*. North Carolina 1958.
3. Goodin, Robert E./Pettit, Philip (Ed.), *Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Anthology*. Oxford 1997.
4. Kailitz, Steffen, *Schlüsselwerke der Politikwissenschaft*. Wiesbaden 2007.
5. Kymlicka, Will, *Justice in Political Philosophy*, 2 Volumes. Aldershot 1992.
6. Matravers, Derek/Pike, John, (Ed.), *Debates in Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Anthology*. London 2003.
7. Meier, Heinrich, *Warum Politische Philosophie?* Stuttgart 2000.
8. Oakeshott, Michael, *Rationalism in Politics. LSE Inaugural Lecture*. London 1962. (any edition).
9. Rawls, John, *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Harvard 2008.
10. Strauss, Leo, *What is Political Philosophy?* New York 1973.
11. Strauss, Leo/Cropsey, Joseph, *History of Political Philosophy*. Chicago 1987.
12. Voegelin, Eric, *the New Science of Politics*. Chicago 1952.