

**Advanced Political Philosophy**

**Semester:** Spring 2022

**ECTS Credits:** 6

**Hours/week:** 90 + 90 min

**Language:** English

**Instructor:** Samuel Abraham & Cole Simmons

**Meeting**: Tues: 1:00-2:30 Johnson Room

Thurs: 1:00-2:30 Johnson Room

Office third floor, Blue building

Tel: (+421 2) 59234 722

dcole.simmons@gmail.com

Office third floor, Yellow building

Tel : +421 905 727 785

abraham(at)bisla.sk

**CONTENT**

This is a sort of “capstone” course. We

will do a philosophical overview of the history of political philosophy using Strauss’ *Natural Right and History* and then look at Art and the Artist as sorts of spiritual actors akin to philosophers.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

The course will require two types of written assignments. You will be tested on your knowledge of the arguments used by the philosophers. You will also be asked, in separate assignments, to explore your own opinions in the light of the arguments discussed. The former type of examination is objective, insofar as no one is being asked to affirm or deny the arguments the philosophers make only show that you know them. The latter type of assignment is graded on more subjective grounds, which include clarity, inventiveness, grammar, and above all, evidence of some idea that you are working out in thought.

Participation in class discussion is a part of your grade.

**Timeliness is of essence in this course.**

Assignments have to be uploaded via Google Classroom by the due date. **Late submissions will incur grade penalty.**

Within 24 hours -10%,

1 to 3 days - 20%

4 to 7 days - 50%

More than a week late - 0%

**CLASS MATERIALS**

● When the text is available in print, having it in class is required and no electronic devices excepting e-readers are permitted.

● Bring a notebook and pen or pencil.

1. Leo Strauss, *Natural Right and History*

2. Heidegger, *The Origin of the Work of Art*

3. Collingwood, *The Principles of Art* (0-19-500209-1)

4. Walter Lippmann, *Public Opinion*

5. Rorty (Samuel)

6. Harvey Mansfeild, *Political Philosophy*

**Grading scale**

A – 100-93%,

B – 92-84%,

C – 83-74%,

D – 73-63%,

E – 62-51%,

Fx – 50-0%.

**Four or more absences result automatically in Fx.**

Regular attendance of all classes is of crucial importance in this course. Much of the explanation and implementation of what we learn towards your research project will take place in the seminars and skipping them will have impact on the quality of your research proposal. As per BISLA policy, four absences are permitted during the semester (these are to be reserved for cases of illness or family emergency). Any more absences result in failing the course. Do inform me prior to missing a class.

During this semester, it is essential that we remain safe. Thus, you are expected to stay at home and inform me when you have a raised temperature, feel short of breath, exhausted, experience upset stomach, etc. Contact the NCIZ hotline to arrange for testing. Check https://korona.gov.sk/en/ for latest information and contact numbers.

**Plagiarism policy**

**Plagiarism will automatically result in an Fx and may be subject to disciplinary proceeding and penalties stipulated in Disciplinary Code (up to expulsion).**

All assignments at BISLA should be: (a) based on *your* reading of the sources, (b) based on *your analysis* of the sources, and (c) written by you. All used sources have to be properly referenced in the text as well as in the bibliography of your papers. You may also reference lectures and class discussions—there is a way to reference everything.

**Definition of plagiarism**: If you use a statement, argument or idea from someone without giving them credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. You can avoid plagiarism by citing your source(s). You must cite a source in two cases: first, whenever you are using the exact wording of the source (in this case, enclose the words in quotation marks; if you add words to the quotation, use square brackets) and, second, whenever you are summarizing or paraphrasing a statement, argument, idea or narrative from the source. If you do not do this, you are guilty of plagiarism. BISLA is using an APA style of referencing—you will find an APA manual on your Google Classroom page. Also, you can consult OWL Purdue Writing lab online or the APA blog for excellent tips and guidance.

**APA formatting and style guide**:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\_and\_citation/apa\_style/apa\_formatting\_and\_style\_gui de/general\_format.html

**Required literature**

● **Class readers will be available in Lucia’s office.**

**TOPICS and SCHEDULE SUMMARY**

SPRING 2022 – Monday – Wednesday Calendar Week 1: **Present Day Theoretical Position** January 11: Introduction to Course

January 13: Strauss (intro)

Week 2

January 18: Strauss chapter 3

January 20: Strauss chapter 4 (selection)

Week 3

January 25: Strauss chapter 5 (first 1/2) January 27 Strauss chapter 5 (second 1/2)

Week 4

February 1: Strauss chapter 6 (selection) February 3: **Evaluation Day**

Week 5: **Art and Action**

February 8: Heidegger

February 10: Heidegger

Week 6:

February 15: Collingwood

February 17: Collingwood

Week 7

February 22: Collingwood

February 24: Collingwood

Week 8

**Reading Week**

Week 9:

March 8: Collingwood

March 10: **Evaluation Day**

Week 10: **Writing And Action**

March 15: Strauss, *Persecution and Art of Writing* (Introductory Essay) March 17: Strauss, *Persecution and Art of Writing* (chapter 2)

Week 11

March 22: Lippmann, *Public Opinion* (“The Making of a Common Will”) March 24: Lippmann, *Public Opinion* (“Organized Intelligence”)

Week 12: **Samuel** (Mansfield and Rorty)

March 29: **Evaluation Day**

March 31: Mansfield

Week 13

April 5: Mansfield

April 7: Mansfield

Week 14

April 12: Rorty

April 14: Rorty

Week 15

April 19: Rorty

April 21: **Wrapup/evaluation day**