



Introduction to Political Philosophy

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| Semester: | Spring 2022 | |
| ECTS Credits: | 6 | |
| Hours/week: | 90 + 90 min | |
| Language: | English | |
| Instructor: | Cole Simmons | |
| Meeting: | Mon: 1:00-2:30 | Rorty Room |
| | Wed: 2:30-4:10 | Rorty Room |

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CONTENT

This is a survey course of political thought, where we will trace some key themes that occupy every philosopher. While the themes persist from age to age, there are variations on these themes. The greatest variation is the most fundamental historical variation, namely, the break with ancient philosophy that gave birth to the Renaissance and Enlightenment.

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.

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_guide/general_format.html

Required literature

- Class readers will have the assigned materials.

TOPICS and SCHEDULE SUMMARY

SPRING 2022 Class Schedule

Week 1: Discussions on Ancient-Modern divide

January 10: Introduction to course

January 12: Benjamin Constant (Note: this is the longest reading, in pages, but it is pretty straightforward.)

Week 2

January 17: Leo Strauss

January 19: **Evaluation Day**

Week 3: **Ancient Ascent to Right of Nature**

January 24: The Periclean View

January 26: The Calliclean View

Week 4

January 31: The Protagorean View

February 2: The Socratic View

Week 5

February 7: The Socratic View

February 9: Aristotelian Reservations

Week 6

February 14: Aristotelian Reservations

February 16: **Evaluation Day**

Week 7: **The Ancient Virtues Forsaken**

February 21: Neo-Platonism (Plotinus)

February 23: Emperor Marcus Aurelius

Week 8

Reading Week

Week 9

March 7: Bible Readings

March 9: St. Augustine

Week 10

March 14: St. Thomas

March 16: **Evaluation Day**

Week 11: **Modern Reorientation**

March 21: Machiavelli

March 23: Machiavelli

Week 12

March 28: Hobbes

March 30: Hobbes

Week 13

April 4: Hobbes

April 6: Locke

Week 14

April 11: Locke

April 13: Rousseau

Week 15

April 18: Rousseau & Burke

April 20: **Evaluation Day**