

Information list of a subject

University: Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA)					
Faculty:					
Subject code: F-127			Subject name: History of Political Thought from Plato to Marx I.		
Type, scope, and method of educational activities: Two weekly meetings of 90 minutes each, amounting 42 hours total. Every week, the first meeting takes the form of a lecture and the second, of a seminar. (full-time form)					
Number of credits: ECTS 6					
Suggested semester: Spring semester					
Level of studies: 1					
Conditional previous subjects: None					
Requirements for the course: Course evaluation (%): A – excellent: 100-93%, B – very good: 92-84%, C – good: 83-74%, D – satisfactory: 73-63%, E – sufficient: 62-51%, Fx – fail: 50-0%. Passing the course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 class sessions. Late arrival is marked as a “tardie”. Three tardies equal one absence. Missing more than 15 minutes of the class is considered an absence.					
Learning outcomes: Students will be introduced to the history of political thought in chronological order. From the Ancient Greeks to Early Modernity, we will examine, through classic excerpts, the development and progress of our core political concepts (sovereignty, the state, freedom, equality, and justice). Methodologically, students will learn to structure their thoughts in consecutive points.					
Brief outline of the course: The history of political thought from the Greeks to the Industrial Revolution is a long odyssey. Texts from distant epochs call for the examination of their historical context. We need to measure the distance between us and those Ancient and Medieval classics to better understand the way they contribute to contemporary political questionings and challenges. This is an archaeology of our political concepts and ideas, progress and shortcomings. After Plato and Aristotle, we will explore Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages to see how our core political concepts have evolved, what challenges they have had to face, and understand the complex origins of our contrasted ways of thinking about politics in this early 21st century.					
Recommended readings: Plato: <i>Gorgias</i> , <i>Meno</i> , <i>Symposium</i> . Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> . Saint Augustine: <i>The City of God</i> . Saint Thomas Aquinas: <i>Summa Theologiae</i> . Machiavelli: <i>The Prince</i> , <i>Discourses on Livy</i> . NB: we will focus on excerpts from these thick classics.					
Language of the course: English					
Notes:					
Evaluation					
Total number of evaluated students:					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
(percentage of students who got A)	(percentage of students who got B)	(percentage of students who got C)	(percentage of students who got D)	(percentage of students who got E)	(percentage of students who got FX)
Instructor: Adam Bence Balazs					
Date of the last change: 14.02.2024					
Approved: Prof. PhDr. František Novosád, CSc.					