

HISTORY OF POLITICAL IDEAS

Course code	<i>POL137</i>
Course name	<i>History of Political Ideas</i>
Type of the course	<i>Compulsory</i>
Study Level	<i>1st</i>
Department	<i>Bachelor studies</i>
Year of study	<i>2nd</i>
Semester	<i>Fall</i>
ECTS credits	<i>6 credits: 24 hours lectures; 24 hours of seminars; 112 hours of individual work; 2 hours of consultation</i>
Study form	<i>Full-time</i>
Language of Instruction	<i>English</i>
Lecturer	<i>Dr. Jonathan Boyd</i> <u>jonathan.boyd@ism.lt</u>

Aim of the Course

Through close readings of, and conscientious engagement with, the primary texts of key thinkers in the Western tradition of political thought, students will become familiar with each authors' unique voice, style, concerns, definitions, concepts and arguments. Some select secondary literature will augment understanding of these primary texts by providing historical and scholarly context. The seminar format of the course invites informed and civil discourse amongst all students in the spirit of liberal learning.

Subject learning outcomes

Subject Learning Outcome		Study methods	Assessment methods
SLO1	Comprehend and interpret each primary text.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO2	Have a basic understanding of the historical context of each thinker, and describe how it may have influenced each thinker.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO2	Know the basic bibliographical information of each thinker.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO3	Critically assess the validity of each thinkers' arguments.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO4	Discuss the relevance of each thinker to today's political concerns.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO5	Understand the contested and changing nature of key political concepts, such as justice, liberty, obedience, authority, and power.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO6	Engage in informed and civil discourse with peers about the the meaning of each text.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations
SLO7	Write insightful commentaries on each thinker and on various important political concepts.	Lectures, seminars, individual study	Written assignments, examinations

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The ISM University of Management and Economics Code of Ethics, including cheating and plagiarism are fully applicable and will be strictly enforced in the course. Academic dishonesty, and cheating can and will lead to a report to the ISM Committee of Ethics. Regarding remote learning, ISM reminds students that they are expected to adhere and maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting.

COURSE OUTLINE

Session	Topic	Class hours	Reading
1	Plato I	4	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
2	Plato II	4	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i>
3	Aristotle I	4	Aristotle, <i>Ethics</i>

4	Aristotle II	4	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>
5	Machiavelli	4	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i>
6	Hobbes I	4	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
7	Hobbes II	4	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
8	Locke		Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration</i>
9	Rousseau	4	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i>
10	John Stuart Mill	4	J. S. Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>
11	Nietzsche	4	Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>
12	Freud	4	Freud, <i>Civilisation and its Discontents</i>

FINAL GRADE COMPOSITION

TYPE	TOPICS	TOTAL HOURS	EVALUATION %
<i>Group component</i>			0
<i>Individual component</i>			100
Midterm exam	1 -- 5	34	45
Final Exam	6 -- 12	44	55
TOTAL		112	100

Course

Assignments and evaluation:**1. Midterm exam**

The midterm is a closed-book in-person written exam of 1.5 hours.

3. Final exam

The final exam will be a closed-book in-person written test; students must choose one political concept from a list of three and discuss the concept's use by the political thinkers studied throughout the course. In case of a negative final grade, students are permitted a retake exam. It will cover all course material. The weight of a retake is 70%. The assignment cannot be re-done but its evaluation (if positive) is not annulled.

Assessment requirements, procedures, and other important regulations may be communicated verbally during lectures. Failure to attend a lecture where such information is provided does not exempt the student from the responsibility of complying with these requirements.

Required reading:

Plato, *Apology*
 Plato, *Gorgias*
 Aristotle, *Ethics*
 Aristotle, *Politics*
 Machiavelli, *The Prince*
 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
 John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*
 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on Inequality* (aka *Second Discourse*)

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*
Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*
Sigmund Freud, *Civilisation and its Discontents*

Supplementary reading:

David Boucher & Paul Kelly, *Political Thinkers from Socrates to the Present*, OUP, 2003.
Janet Coleman, *History of Political Thought* (two volumes), Wiley-Blackwell, 2000.
I. F. Stone, *The Trial of Socrates*, Anchor Books, 1988.
C. C. W. Taylor, *Socrates: A very short introduction*, OUP, 2001.
Julia Annas, *Plato: A very short introduction*, OUP, 2003.
Jonathan Barnes, *Aristotle: A very short introduction*, OUP, 2000.
Quentin Skinner, *Machiavelli, A very short introduction*, OUP, 2000.
Richard Tuck, *Hobbes: A very short introduction*, OUP, 2002.
John Dunn, *Locke: A very short introduction*, OUP, 2003.
Robert Wokler, *Rousseau, A very short introduction*, OUP, 2001.
Christopher Janaway, *Schopenhauer: A very short introduction*, OUP, 2002.
Anthony Storr, *Freud, A very short introduction*, OUP, 2001.

Excerpts from the required texts to study in class will be provided each week.

I highly recommend you purchase copies of the main texts; indeed, they should be in the personal library of every well-read person. E-versions are poor substitutes for owning these classic works. Nor are they expensive: used copies in particular can be very affordable.

Supplementary reading material is in the library or will be provided on e-learning; it is not required reading, but is highly recommended.

Class rules:

The learning environment will be traditional and classical: in class, students' attention will be solely occupied by the text and our conversation. To that end:

1. Laptops and mobile phones must be put aside; exceptions may be made for those with special learning requirements.
2. Powerpoint slides will not be used by the lecturer; all instruction will be communicated verbally.
3. Bring paper and pen(s) to each class (and perhaps a highlighter); absent of your laptop, this will be your only means of taking notes.
4. Students will be expected to participate: all will take turns reading aloud, and all will occasionally be asked questions by the instructor.