

# INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

## 1. MODULE SUMMARY

### Aims and Summary

This course introduces students to fundamentals of Political Philosophy through reading and discussing books on politics and state written by some of the greatest minds in European tradition. Students are expected to read the books under discussion and appropriate chapters from the reading lists before the class. This course aims to acquaint the students with main political ideas and concepts relating the best theoretical order, which preoccupied the ancient and mediaeval philosophers and with the best practical order which modern thinkers have been and still are interested in. The course also focuses on analysing and building arguments; on various methods and standards of critical thinking (introducing students to classics of critical thought) and on evaluating sources of information.

### Module Size and credits

<b>CATS points</b>	20.0
<b>ECTS credits</b>	10.0
<b>Total student study hours</b>	200
<b>Number of weeks</b>	12
<b>School responsible</b>	Łazarski University, Faculty of Economics and Management
<b>Academic Year</b>	2021-2022

### Entry Requirements (pre-requisites and co-requisites)

N/A

### Excluded Combinations

None

### Composition of module mark (including weighting of components)

Coursework 60%, composed of two essay assignments (1500-2000 words each)

Final exam 40%

### Pass requirements

To pass the course a student must score at least 40% of the overall weighted average and not less than 35% for each assessment component (i.e. final exam and coursework). Re-assessment: coursework component(s) and/or examination as appropriate.

### Special Features

None

### Course stages for which this module is mandatory

BA Year 2 International Relations (level 5)

### Course stages for which this module is a core option

None

## 2. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

### Intended Module Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. Characterise the main ideas and concepts of political philosophy in the Western tradition and their evolution;

2. Identify principal concerns of pre-modern and modern theories, as well as the main differences between them;
3. Apply an understanding of intellectual European tradition to other areas of study;
4. Apply the principles of critical thinking to writing with and without the use of outside sources.

#### **Indicative Content**

- Intro: What is philosophy and political philosophy; first Greek thinkers; Socrates and the Sophists
- Plato, *Apology*, *Republic*
- Aristotle, *Politics*; *Nichomachean Ethics*
- Aristotle's *Metaphysics*; St. Augustine, *City of God*; excerpts from the Bible
- St. Thomas, *Treatise on Law*
- Machiavelli, *Prince*; Sun Tzu, *Art of War*
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*; lecture on Montesquieu
- Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*; *Emile*
- Marx-Engels, *Communist Manifesto*; Lecture on Kant's ethics and politics
- Mill Jr. *On Liberty*
- Tocqueville and Lord Acton as alternative liberalism
- Nietzsche and a glance at post-modernism
- Basics of logic and argumentation building (generalization, analogy, cause and effect, deduction, logical fallacies).

#### **Teaching and Learning**

This module will be taught by means of seminars, workshops, and self-directed study.

Formative Assessment: Comments will be given on assessments, and tutorial guidance will be provided for coursework and exam.

Student activity and time spent on each activity comprises:

<b>Guided</b>	0 hours	(0%)
<b>Lecture</b>	0 hours	(0 %)
<b>Self-guided</b>	110 hours	(55%)
<b>Seminar</b>	45 hours	(22,5%)
<b>Workshop</b>	45 hours	(22,5%)
<b>Total</b>	200 hours	

#### **Method of Assessment (normally assessed as follows)**

The intended learning outcomes will be assessed as follows:

Two papers (60% - 12 Credits): 1500-2000 words each; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4

Final exam (40% – 8 Credits): 100 minutes; contributes to learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4

#### **Re-sit**

Students failing any component of assessment, at the first attempt, are entitled to one re-sit attempt. This will be by new examination and/or new coursework scheduled for the next assessment opportunity. For coursework, if more than one element existed in the first attempt, this may be combined into one assessment for re-sit

#### **Date of last amendment**

1-02-2019

### 3. MODULE RESOURCES

#### Essential Reading

Sabine, G.H., 1973. *A History of Political Theory*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers. Appropriate chapters for each class.

Strauss, L., Cropsey, J., 2003. *History of Political Philosophy*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Appropriate chapters for each topic, recommended.

Weston, A., 2000. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing.

#### Recommended Reading

Hallowell, J.H., 1984. *Main Currents in Modern Political Philosophy*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. § 1-3; available in teaching materials under my name (2 copies).

Lazarski, C., 2012. 'Acton's Ideal Polity and its Alternatives', in Lazarski, C. (ed), *Power Tends to Corrupt: Lord Acton's Study of Liberty*, Cornell University Press.

Mansfield, H., 2006. *A Student's Guide to Political Philosophy*. Open Road Integrated Media. Library + teaching materials under my name (2 copies).

Simon, Y.R., 1993. *Philosophy of Democratic Government*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press. § 1-4

#### Required Equipment

None

### 4. MODULE ORGANISATION

#### Module leader

**Name** Prof. Christopher Łazarski

**E-mail** [k.lazarski@lazarski.edu.pl](mailto:k.lazarski@lazarski.edu.pl)

#### Length and month of examination

100 minutes in February

#### Expected teaching timetable slots

Note that some tutorials/seminars may be provided at times other than those shown below. Timetable information should be verified with the School responsible for the module

No timetable information available

#### Subject Quality and Approval information

**Board of Study** Faculty Collaborative Provision Committee

**Subject Assessment Board** Faculty Council, Faculty of Economics and Management

#### Shortened title

**Date of approval by FCPC**