



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
PHI-220	Philosophy of Politics	3.0
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other 3/0/0	Co- or Pre-requisite ---	Implementation Semester & Year FA 2022

Catalog description:

An introduction to modern political theory starting with Machiavelli and concluding with Mill. Highlights include readings from Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, The Federalist Papers, Burke, Bentham, Hegel, and Marx and Engels. Critical analysis and selected issues in modern political theory are stressed.

**General Education
Category:**

Goal 6: Humanities

**Course coordinator: Ken Howarth, 6095703809
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Required texts & Other materials:

Social and Political Philosophy: Classic and Contemporary Readings,
Edited by Andrea Veltman, Oxford, 2008, ISBN: 9780195424294

The Philosopher's Toolkit, 3rd Edition, Julian Baggini & Peter S. Fosl,
Wiley-Blackwell, 2020, ISBN: 9781119103219

A Concise Oxford Dictionary of Politics and International Relations, 4th
Edition, ed. Garrett W Brown, Iain McLean, and Alistair McMillan
Oxford, ISBN: 9780199670840

Handouts & Websites as directed; for updated editions/similar text-check
bookstore

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. List The Essential Contributions of Each of the Political Philosophers Studied
(ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) (PLOs 1, 2)
2. List and Describe at Least 6 Important Issues in Modern Political Theory
(ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) (PLOs 1, 2)
3. Relate Each Political Philosopher Studied to Their Underlying Moral Position
(ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
4. Compare and Contrast Social Contract Theories in Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau

- (ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
5. Critically Evaluate the Strengths and Weaknesses of Each Position Studied
(ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
 6. Construct an Ideal State Indicating the Students Choice of a Political Arrangement
(ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)
 7. Name and Defend a Political Philosopher That the Student Believes is Most Significant
(ILGs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) (PLOs 1, 2, 3, 4)

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 5. Social Science. Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

Institutional Learning Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Liberal Arts (PLO)

1. Concept Knowledge Understand the vocabulary, methods, and major concepts present in the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences
2. Communication Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively, both verbally and in writing
3. Critical Thinking Perform a series of thinking tasks including speculation, analysis, and synthesis (i.e., abstract reasoning)
4. Research Methods Utilize research materials and methodologies

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I Defining Political Theory (aka Political Philosophy and Political Thought) (SLO #1, 2)

Learning Objectives *The student will able to:*

1. Outline the History of political thought
2. Understand the Significance - The Proper Purposes of Government
3. Define of Political Theory (aka Political Philosophy and Political Thought)

Unit II Introduce Criteria for Evaluation of Political Theories - Analysis and Assessment (SLO #1, 2, 4, 5)

Learning Objectives *The student will able to:*

1. Identify desirable Political Arrangements Involving Analysis of Moral Values
2. Sketch possible Political Social Contractual Arrangements
3. Perform analysis and assessment of Likely or Feasible Political Arrangements

Unit III Analysis and Normative Assessment of Criteria for Each Political Theory on: (SLO #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Learning Objectives *The student will able to:*

Identify and Evaluate central aspects of political theories:

1. Authority
2. Liberty
3. Equality
4. Happiness (Utility)
5. Justice

Unit IV Recognition of Teleological (Consequentialist) vs. Deontological (Non-Consequentialist) Ethical Theories and Their Relation to Political Theory: (SLO #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Learning Objectives *The student will able to:*

Identify and evaluate in ethical theoretical terms:

1. The Relation of the State to the Individual
2. Issues Between Individual Rights and the Greatest Good
3. Issues Between the Public vs. the Private Sector

Unit V Issues Under the Heading, Religion vs. Politics in Selected Areas: (SLO #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Learning Objectives *The student will able to:*

Identify and relate religious and political authority and practices with respect to:

1. Pre-Renaissance – Augustine's The City of God
2. Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise
3. Locke's Doctrine of Natural Rights
4. Atheistic Marxist Socialism
5. The Separation of Church and State

Unit VI Types of Political Positions (SLO #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Learning Objectives *The student will able to:*

. : Discuss, Analyze and Contrast the Following:

1. The Communitarians
 - a. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 - b. Marx and Engels
 - c. Recent Theorists: Michael Sandel and Michael Walzer

2. The Liberals
 - a. Locke
 - b. Hobbes
 - c. Mill
 - d. Smith
 - e. Recent Theorists: Isaiah Berlin, Ronald Dworkin and John Rawls
3. The Conservatives
 - a. Edmund Burke
 - b. Recent Theorists: Russell Kirk, Michael Oakeshott and Irving Kristol
4. The Socialist
 - a. Marx, Engels and Lenin
 - b. Recent Theorists: Ted Grant and Alan Woods
5. The Utilitarians
 - a. Jeremy Bentham
 - b. John Stuart Mill
 - c. Recent Theorists: J.J.C. Smart and Peter Singer

Evaluation of student learning:

- A. As a web course, each student receives three grades each week, one grade from the students Contribution to the Forum and two grades from critical evaluation to the responses of fellow students. Also required is a collaborative 5-8 page research paper: Weekly Grades: 75 Research Paper: 25
- B. As a lecture course on campus, there will be 4 one hour essay examinations and a 5-10 page Research paper. Examination grades: 80 Research Paper 20