



Course Code EUS-255	Course Title European Political Thought	ECTS Credits
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester	Prerequisites
Type of Course Required	Field European Studies	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course	Year of Study	Lecturer(s) Dr Eleni Papamichael
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement	Co-requisites

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Introduce students to the necessity and importance of European Political Philosophy.
- Introduce students to the fundamental questions of European Political Philosophy.
- Introduce students to the major philosophical conceptions, in particular of the contemporary era, of some of the core political ideas and values that underlie political ideologies (Social Justice, Liberty, Equality, Democracy).
- Introduce students to the philosophical argumentation concerning the correlation or dissociation of different political ideas/values between them.
- Help students to clarify the fundamental philosophical distinctions/interpretations that exist, in regard to each single political idea/value.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Have a clear understanding of the necessity and importance of European Political Philosophy.
2. Recognize the fundamental questions of European Political Philosophy.
3. Illustrate a full comprehension of the content and logic of the major philosophical conceptions, in particular of the contemporary era, of some of the core political ideas and values that underlie political ideologies (Social Justice, Liberty, Equality, Democracy).
4. Have a clear view of how the different political ideas/values can be philosophically regarded as correlated or dissociated between them.
5. Identify the fundamental philosophical distinctions/interpretations that exist, in regard to each single political idea/value.

6. Illustrate the ability to continue learning in a self-directed manner and work on an academic level within the intended professional field.
7. Use libraries, bibliographical material and academic research in an efficient manner.

Course Contents:

1. Why do we need political philosophy?
2. What is Social Justice? (Part I) - Contemporary philosophical theories of Social Justice: Friedrich Hayek, John Rawls
3. What is Social Justice? (Part II) - Contemporary philosophical theories of Social Justice: Robert Nozick
4. What is Liberty? - Contemporary philosophical theories of Liberty : Isaiah Berlin, Gerald MacCallum
5. Freedom and Private Property
6. What is Equality? - Different interpretations of treating people “as equals”
7. The idea of Equality in Rawls’s and Nozick’s philosophical theories
8. What is Democracy? - Distinctions and Degrees of Democracy: Direct, Indirect and Participatory Democracy
9. Are there really “right” answers to all political questions? - Subjectivism and Democracy
10. The intrinsic and instrumental justifications of Democracy: Procedures and Outcomes

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, PowerPoint presentations, Project work

Assessment Methods:

Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam, Class Participation, Essays

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Adam Swift	Political Philosophy : A Beginners’ Guide for Students and Politicians	Polity Press	2006	
David Miller	Political Philosophy : A very short Introduction	Oxford University Press	2003	

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
M. Rosen @ J. Wolff	Political Thought	Oxford University Press	1999	
Colin Bird	An Introduction to Political Philosophy	Cambridge University Press	2006	
Michael Curtis	The Great Political Theories	Harper Perennial Modern Classics Edition	2008	

Will Kymlicka	Contemporary Political Philosophy : An Introduction	Oxford University Press	2002	
Harvey C. Mansfield	A Students' Guide to Political Philosophy (3 rd Edition)	Wilmington, Del. : ISI Books	2005	