



Course Code IREL-256	Course Title Political Theory	ECTS Credits 6
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Spring/Fall	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field Political Science and IR	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) Dr Giorgos Kentas
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The course examines political life and social change, and classical and modern concepts of politics. The organization of power, authority and legitimacy are also examined. Consideration is given to various types of political systems, Western and non Western. Problems of International Relations are also investigated, along with methods of political analysis.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Review the basic concepts of Politics and Political Theory.
2. Explain the meaning and the impact of power, authority and influence on social orders.
3. Discuss the various types of political systems.
4. Explore the nature of classical and modern concepts of politics.
5. Evaluate differing views of justice and the forms of government articulated by major political theorists that allow for a just society to be created.
6. Differentiate between ancient and modern political thought.
7. Appraise the role of the social contract underlying the development of modern politics, as well as contemporary debates and criticisms of this model of liberal democracy.

Course Contents:

1. Why do we need political theory?
2. John Rawls on the history of political philosophy
3. Theories of societies
4. Comparing and assessing political theories
5. Aristotle: The civic society
6. Hobbes: Instrumental individualism
7. Adam Smith: The social system
8. Durkheim: consensus theory
9. Marx: conflict theory
10. Schutz: A phenomenological approach
11. Freedom and the limits of government

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussion, Presentation and Assignments

Assessment Methods:

Participation, Review Essay, Mid-term Exam and Final Exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Campbell, Tom (1981), *Seven Theories of Human Society*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
Miller, David (2003), *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Rawls, John (2007), *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Beehler, Roger and Drengson Alan eds. (1969), *The Philosophy of Society*, Methuen, 1978.
Feurer, Lewis (1969) *Marx and Engels*, Collins.
Giddens, A. (1971) *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*, Cambridge University Press.
Raphael, D.D. (1977), *Hobbes*, Allen & Unwin.
Allan, D.J. (1952), *The Philosophy of Aristotle*, Oxford University Press.
MacRae, Donald (1974), *Weber*, Collins.