

COURSE SYLLABUS



POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY I

Course code: POS 201

Semester and year: Spring 2021

Day and time: Monday, 18:30-21.15

Instructor: Dr Janusz Salamon

Instructor contact: janusz.salamon@aauni.edu

Consultation hours: Monday, 18.00-18.30 and by appointment

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Introductory
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	TOEFL iBT 71
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	Bachelor Required

1. Course Description

This course introduces the students to the study of political philosophy. We will explore some of the most important philosophical questions that shape the way we understand and act in the world of politics. We will read selections from the seminal works of ancient as well as modern political thinkers and tackle such questions as the nature of the state and political power, the justification of political obligation, or the relation between political and economic freedom.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Comprehend the ideas of the seminal thinkers of Western philosophic tradition studies in the course;
- Understand and analyse the basic concepts, ideas and problems relevant to the study of politics;
- Have improved their analytical, argumentative, and writing skills.

3. Reading Material

All class readings will be made available in an electronic version on the NEO. The readings will be drawn from the following anthologies. (Supplementary readings will be provided on an individual basis taking into account the particular interests of individual students.)

Key Readings

Aristotle: *Politics*

E. Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

G.W.F. Hegel: *The Philosophy of Right*

T. Hobbes: *Leviathan*

I. Kant: *Towards Perpetual Peace*

J. Locke: *Second Treatise of Government*

N. Machiavelli: *Prince*

Plato: *The Defence of Socrates, Crito; Republic*

J.-J. Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*
 K. Marx: F. Engels: *Communist Manifesto*.
 J. S. Mill: *On Liberty; Utilitarianism*
Additional readings will be assigned during the semester.

4. Teaching methodology

Lectures, active participation in discussions, home reading assignments with quizzes, follow-up analysis and discussion in class.

5. Course Schedule

Date	Class Agenda
6.9.2021	Class 1: The birth of political philosophy in Ancient Greece: Socrates as an ideal citizen Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
13.9.2021	Class 2: Plato as a critic of democracy as a rule of manipulated mob and a defender of the rule of a meritocratic elite Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
20.9.2021	Class 3: Aristotle's defence of politics grounded in human nature and "mixed government" (and its echoes in Cicero's defence of the Roman republic) Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
27.9.2021	Class 4: Machiavelli on „maintaining the state" as the chief goal of 'realist' politics and the problem of "dirty hands" Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
4.10.2021	Class 5: Hobbes on state sovereignty established through social contract as the guarantor of security of the parties to the contract Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
11.10.2021	Class 6: Locke on "limited government" respecting "inalienable rights" of the citizens Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
18.10.2021	Class 7: Rousseau's egalitarian republicanism as the source of social democracy Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
25.10.2021	Mid-term break
1.11.2021	Class 8: Immanuel Kant as the key to understanding the political ideology behind the European Union Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings ESSAY 1 DUE
8.11.2021	Class 9: The roots of modern Conservatism: E. Burke, J. de Maistre and the Counter-Enlightenment in politics

	Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
15.11.2021	Class 10: Hegel on the historical nature of reason, freedom and politics Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
22.11.2021	Class 11: Marx's critique of capitalism and liberal democracy Reading: In the NEO Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
29.11.2021	Class 12: Concepts of liberty (B. Constant, I. Berlin, Q. Skinner) Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
6.12.2021	Class 13: Utilitarianism as a guide to political decision making (Bentham, J.S. Mill) Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings
13.12.2021	Class 14: Nietzsche and the sources of fascism Assignments/deadlines: Preparing for the in-class test of the knowledge of the content of the relevant class readings <u>ESSAY 2 DUE</u>

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Reading Notes*	42	30%	Ability to identify the key issues in the class readings and to express them succinctly	
Essay 1**	54	35%	Ability to analyze and criticize in writing the issues and arguments explored in the readings and in classroom	
Essay 2**	54	35%	Ability to analyze and criticize in writing the issues and arguments explored in the readings and in classroom	
TOTAL	150	100%		

*1 = Critical Thinking; 2 = Effective Communication; 3 = Effective and Responsible Action

***Reading Notes**, ca. 2 pages each week (starting in Week 2) are to be uploaded in NEO by the deadline indicated in the Reading Notes Assignments in NEO (typically not later than 90 minutes before the beginning of the class for which a given class reading is assigned). The aim of this exercise is not only to motivate the students to do diligently the weekly homework but also to prepare for a maximally interactive class, since the class readings will provide the point of departure for class discussions on the key ideas of the greatest political thinkers of the past.

**** Essays 1 & 2.** Length: ca. 1500 words each (not counting references). The topics and detailed instruction will be provided in class, when student will be able to ask questions. (After submitting her/his essay, each student will briefly meet online with the instructor to allow for an additional exchange about the subject matter covered by the essay.)

7. Detailed description of the assignments

Assignment 1: CLASS READING NOTES (Weekly)

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Knowledge and comprehension of the weekly reading assignments.	30%
Active approach – willingness to ask questions, raise points, participate in in-class discussions.	40%
Argumentative and analytical skills.	30%

Assignment 2: MID-TERM ESSAY

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories covered during the first 6 weeks of the course.	35%
Ability to apply these concepts to current political issues.	35%
Analytical, argumentative and writing skills.	30%

Assignment 3: FINAL ESSAY

Assessment breakdown

Assessed area	Percentage
Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories covered during the weeks 8-14 of the course.	35%
Ability to apply these concepts to current political issues.	35%
Analytical, argumentative and writing skills.	30%

8. General Requirements and School Policies

General requirements

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

Electronic communication and submission

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS.

Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and shall have the course code in the subject, for example: "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question".

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

Attendance

Attendance is required. Students who are absent 35 percent of classes will be failed (or administratively withdrawn from the course if most absences are excused). Students might also be marked absent if they miss a significant part of a class (by arriving late or leaving early) as specified in the syllabus.

Absence excuse and make-up options

Should a student be absent from classes for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he must submit to the Dean of Students an Absence Excuse Request Form supplemented with documents providing reasons for the absence. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of the

absence. If possible, it is recommended the instructor be informed of the absence in advance. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if s/he submits an Absence Excuse Request Form along with the finalized add/drop form. Assignments missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up which may result in a decreased or failing grade as specified in the syllabus.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean of Students are entitled to make up assignments and exams provided their nature allows for a make-up. Students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week of the date the absence was excused to arrange for make-up options.

Late work: No late submissions will be accepted – please follow the deadlines.

Electronic devices

Electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may be used only for class-related activities (taking notes, looking up related information, etc.). Any other use will result in the student being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. No electronic devices may be used during tests or exams.

Eating is not allowed during classes.

Cheating and disruptive behavior

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center

Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin’s White Paper ‘The Plagiarism Spectrum’ (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another’s work, word-for-word, as one’s own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one’s own previous work without citation; To self-plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The “Aggregator” includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text’s original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A–	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	Good performance. The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B–	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	Fair performance. The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C–	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	Poor. The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student’s work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	Fail. The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.

Prepared by and when: Janusz Salamon, Ph.D., 01.07.2021

Approved by and when: