

## POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY I

**Course code: POS 201**

**Semester and year: Spring 2018**

**Day and time: Tuesday, 11.30-14.15**

**Instructor: Janusz Salamon, Ph.D.**

**Instructor contact: janusz.salamon@aauni.edu**

**Consultation hours: Tuesday, 10.45-11.30**

<b>Credits US/ECTS</b>	3/6	<b>Level</b>	Introductory
<b>Length</b>	15 weeks	<b>Pre-requisite</b>	None
<b>Contact hours</b>	42 hours	<b>Course type</b>	BA

### 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 assigned readings are available online: either in the electronic reader accessible at the course's NEO LMS website or in the public domain (on the Internet).

Additional readings may be assigned during the semester.

#### **Key Readings**

Aristotle: *Politics*

- I. Berlin: *Two Concepts of Liberty*  
 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*

#### 4. Teaching methodology

This course is a combination of a lecture and a seminar. Students will be expected to actively participate in the class discussion. It is therefore of paramount importance that they study the assigned texts before class.

#### 5. Course Schedule

Classes	Class Agenda
	<b>Topic:</b> Socrates as an ideal citizen and the birth of political philosophy
Class 1	<b>Reading:</b> Plato: <i>The Defence of Socrates &amp; Crito</i> (selections)
	<b>Topic:</b> Democracy as a rule of manipulated mob <i>versus</i> an enlightened rule of the meritocratic elite
Class 2	<b>Reading:</b> Plato: <i>Republic</i> (selections)
	<b>Topic:</b> The birth of middle-class politics and of "mixed government"
Class 3	<b>Reading:</b> Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> and Cicero's <i>On the Republic</i> (selections)
	<b>Topic:</b> „Maintaining the state" as the chief goal of realistic politics and the problem of "dirty hands"
Class 4	<b>Reading:</b> Machiavelli: <i>Prince</i> (selections)
	<b>Topic:</b> Sovereignty established through social contract as the guarantor of security of citizens
Class 5	<b>Reading:</b> Hobbes: <i>Leviathan</i> (selections)
	<b>Topic:</b> "Limited government" respecting "inalienable rights" of citizens
Class 6	<b>Reading:</b> Locke: <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> (selections)

Class 7      **MID-TERM Written In-Class Exam**

**Topic:** "To be free means to obey the law": Rousseau's reconciliation of individual freedom and state authority

Class 8

**Reading:** Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* (selections)

**Topic:** Personal dignity and individual autonomy as the goal of politics

Class 9

**Reading:** Kant, *On the Relationship of Theory and Practice in Political Right; The Metaphysics of Morals; Towards Perpetual Peace* (selections)

**Topic:** Concepts of liberty

Class 10

**Reading:** Constant: *The Liberty of Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns*; Berlin: *Two Concepts of Liberty* (selections)

**Topic:** The „rights of men“ versus the „rights of Englishmen“: The roots of modern conservatism

Class 11

**Reading:** E. Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (selections)

**Topic:** Utilitarianism as a guide to modern politics

Class 12

**Reading:** J.S. Mill, *Utilitarianism* and *On Liberty* (selections)

**Topic:** Hegel on Freedom, Reason, History, and the Nation-State

Class 13

**Reading:** Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right* (selections)

**Topic:** Marx's critique of liberal democracy

Class 14

**Reading:** Marx and Engels: *Communist Manifesto* (selections)

**FINAL Written In-Class Exam**

## 6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Attendance and Class Participation	42	10 %	Active participation in class discussion.	1, 2
Weekly Reading Assignments (tested in class)	28	10 %	Knowledge and comprehension of the weekly reading assignments.	1
In-Class Mid-term Exam	40	40 %	Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories covered in the course, analytical, argumentative and writing skills.	1, 2
In-Class Final Exam	40	40 %	Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories covered in the course, analytical, argumentative and writing skills.	1,
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>		

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

## 7. Detailed description of the assignments

**CLASS PARTICIPATION & WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS:** Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion with questions and comments that stimulate interaction. In order to take part in discussions, students must come to class having studied the assigned readings for that week.

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 %

**MID-TERM WRITTEN EXAM & FINAL WRITTEN EXAM:** The exam will last 135 minutes. The students will be asked to select and discuss 4 topics from a list of 5 topics covering the material

explored in class and in the class readings in the relevant part of the semester.

<b>Assessed area</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories explored in class and in the class readings.	60 %
Analytical, argumentative and writing skills.	40 %

## **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. The university recommends, as a minimal policy, that students who are absent 35 percent of the course should be failed (or administratively withdrawn from the course if the absences are excused).

### ***Absence excuse and make-up options***

Should the student be absent from a class for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he needs to submit an Absence Excuse Form supplemented with documents proving the reasons for absence to the Assistant Dean. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if they submit an Absence Excuse Form along with the finalized add/drop form. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of absence. If possible, it is recommended to inform the instructor about the absence in advance.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean are entitled to make up exams they missed provided that the nature of the exam allows for a make-up. The students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week from the date the absence was excused, and for making arrangements with the instructor about make-up options as necessary.

### ***Unexcused absences***

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Absences above this number may result in failure of the course.

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

### **Electronic devices**

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

**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	<b>Excellent performance.</b> 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	<b>Good performance.</b> 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	<b>Fair performance.</b> 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	<b>Poor.</b> 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	<b>Fail.</b> 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 Janusz Salamon, 01-11-2017**

**Approved by and when: Pelin Ayan, 25 January 2018.**