

COURSE SYLLABUS



POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY II

Course code: POS 202

Semester and year: Fall 2017

Day and time: Tuesday 11.30 AM – 2.15PM

Instructor: Jakub Franěk, Ph.D.

Instructor contact: jakub.franek@aauni.edu

Consultation hours: Tuesday 10.20-11.20AM, Faculty Lounge.

Credits US/ECTS	3/6	Level	Intermediate
Length	15 weeks	Pre-requisite	POS 201
Contact hours	42 hours	Course type	BA IRD Required

1. Course Description

This course introduces the students to the study of contemporary political theory, or contemporary political philosophy, as it is also known. This field of study often enjoys an undeserved reputation of a somewhat arcane discipline with little or no practical import. One of the principle aims of this course is to debunk this myth and convince the students that the study of contemporary political thinkers may actually help them to better understand the political dimension of their own real-life experience, as well as to appreciate the crucial importance of this dimension. This intention informs the design of the course, which consists of four thematic blocks. In each block we will study the works of seminal thinkers representative of the most important contemporary political theories (or schools of thought) while linking their theoretical insights with current political issues.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Comprehend the main concepts and ideas discussed in contemporary political theory.
- Be familiar with the most important schools of thought in contemporary political theory.
- Be able to apply the theoretical insights of contemporary political thought to questions and problems arising in the context of today's politics.
- Develop the ability to conduct basic academic research and analytical writing appropriate to the undergraduate level.

3. Reading Material

- H. Arendt: *On Violence*.
 H. Arendt: *What is Freedom?*
 G. Eyal: *Anti-Politics and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
 M. Foucault: *Two Lectures*.
 M. Foucault: *Discipline and Punish*.
 M. Foucault: *History of Sexuality* vol. 1.
 F. Fukuyama: *The End of History?*

- F. Fukuyama: *The Future of History*.
 V. Havel: *The Power of the Powerless*.
 D. Harvey: *Neoliberalism as Creative Destruction*.
 F. A. Hayek: *The Road to Serfdom*.
 S. Huntington: *The Clash of Civilizations?*
 M. McLuhan: *Understanding Media*.
 H. Marcuse: *One-Dimensional Man*.
 C. Mouffe: *On the Political*.
 N. Postman: *Amusing ourselves to Death*.
 J. Rawls: *A Theory of Justice*.
 M. Sandel: *Anarchy, State and Utopia*.
 C. Schmitt: *The Concept of the Political*.
 C. Schmitt: *The Age of Neutralisations and Depoliticisations*.

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 the class meeting.

5. Course Schedule

September 5: Course overview

September 12: The world we live in: The promise of the end of Cold War and new challenges to peace and democracy

Reading: D. Fukuyama: *The End of History?*
 S. Huntington: *The Clash of Civilizations?*

September 19: C. Schmitt's concept of the political: Conflict as the essence of politics

Reading: C. Schmitt: *The Concept of the Political*.
 C. Schmitt: *The Age of Neutralisations and Depoliticisations*. (recommended only).

September 26: From antagonism to agonism: Reconciling Schmitt's view of politics with democracy

Reading: C. Mouffe: *On the Political* (selected chapters).

October 3: Technology, consumerism and mass society.

Reading: H. Marcuse: *One-Dimensional Man* (selected chapters).

October 10: Power and knowledge: Scientific disciplines and disciplinary institutions in modern society

Reading: M. Foucault: *Two Lectures* (selections), *Discipline and Punish* (selections), *History of Sexuality* vol.1 (selections).

NB: **Take-home midterm exam assigned.**

October 17: Power, Freedom and Violence.

Reading: H. Arendt: *On Violence* (selections), *What is Freedom?* (recommended only).

NB: **Take-home exam due.**

- October 24: MIDTERM BREAK: No Class!**
- October 31: The Power of the Powerless: The promise and the limitations of non-political politics.**
Reading: V. Havel: *The Power of the Powerless*.
 G. Eyal: *Anti-Politics and the Spirit of Capitalism* (recommended only).
- November 7: Modern media and popular culture: Banalization of politics?**
Reading: N. Postman: *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (selected chapters).
 M. McLuhan: *Understanding Media* (selected chapters).
- November 14: Freedom versus equality: Two views of distributive justice.**
Reading: J. Rawls: *A Theory of Justice* (selected chapters).
 M. Sandel: *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (selected chapters).
NB: Term paper thesis statement due!
- November 21: Neoliberal critique of the welfare state: Does welfare state lead to totalitarianism?**
Reading: F. A. Hayek: *The Road to Serfdom* (selected chapters).
- November 28: Economic freedom versus political freedom: Criticizing neoliberalism**
Reading: D. Harvey: *Neoliberalism as Creative Destruction*.
 C. Crouch: *Post-Democracy* (selected chapters).
- December 5: The current surge of populism and the future of democracy**
Reading: F. Fukuyama: *The Future of History*.
 (Additional reading TBA).
- December 15: Term papers due by 10PM!**
Papers must be submitted electronically via NEO ELS!

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Student Learning Outcomes	Institutional Learning Outcomes*
Class participation (including weekly reading assignments)	70	Up to 5% bonus points	Active participation in class discussions, knowledge and comprehension of the weekly reading assignments.	1,2
Pop Quizzes	1	10%	Knowledge and understanding of the assigned reading.	3
Take-Home Midterm Examination	39	45%	Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories covered in the course, ability to apply these ideas and concepts, analytical, argumentative and writing skills.	1,2
Term Paper	40	45%	Knowledge and comprehension of the concepts, ideas and theories discussed in the paper, ability to apply these concepts to selected current political issue, argumentative and writing skills.	1,2
TOTAL	150	100%		

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

7. Detailed description of the assignments

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**
 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.

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%

- **Pop quizzes:** Up to four pop quizzes will be given during the semester. The quizzes will test your knowledge and understanding of the concepts, ideas, and/or theories discussed in the assigned readings and/or discussed during the lectures. NB: Missed quizzes cannot be made-up. In case a student misses two or more quizzes due to an excused absence (caused by a documented medical condition or serious personal reason, such as a death in the family), exception to this rule may be granted.

- **TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAMINATION:**

The take-home midterm examination will consist of an essay on an assigned topic. The examination will be assigned on October 10 and due on October 17. Completed examinations must be submitted via NEO ELS. **Late exams will be marked down by one grade for each day they are tardy.**

Assessed area	Percentage
Knowledge and comprehension of the ideas and concepts relevant to the take-home exam.	40%
Analytical and argumentative skills	30%
Overall persuasiveness	15%
Formal qualities of the writing (i.e. style, grammar, etc.)	15%

- **TERM PAPER:**

An 8–12 page essay on a topic of your choice will be due at the end of the exam week. **Late papers will be marked down by one grade for each day they are tardy.** In your paper you should analyse a contemporary political issue using a theoretical perspective covered in the class. (E.g. you might apply Foucault’s concept of disciplinary power to the analysis and assessment of the growing use of electronic-communications surveillance.) **All students must submit a preliminary statement of the thesis of their paper November 14.** The thesis statements must be submitted via NEO ELS. **Failure to submit the thesis statement on time will negatively affect the term-paper grade.**

The term paper must be also submitted electronically via NEO ELS. **The papers are due on May 24 at 10 PM. Late papers will be marked down by one grade for each day they are tardy.**

Assessed area	Percentage
Comprehension of the ideas and concepts used	25%
Analytical and argumentative skills	25%
Ability to apply theoretical concepts and ideas to current political issues	20%
Overall persuasiveness	15%
Formal qualities of the writing (i.e. style, grammar, etc.)	15%

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	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: Jakub Franek

Approved by: Pelin Ayan, 4 Sept 2017.