**Antalya Bilim University**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations, POLS 201**

**History of Political Thought I**

**Fall 2019**

Lecturer: Gözde Turan

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Class hours: Friday 10.00-13.00 (A2-94)

Office: A2-42

Office hours: Mondays 16.00-17.00 and Wednesdays 16.00-17.00

**Course description**

This course is an introduction to the history of political thought. It engages with the main issues and debates in western political theory, including but not limited to the topics of justice, legitimacy, equality, democracy, liberty, sovereignty, and the role of history in the political and social world through the works of major thinkers. The course is designed to be the first in a two-semester sequence on the subject matter the first part of which will examine eleven philosophers: Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Martin Luther and John Calvin, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Descartes, Spinoza, and Locke. The course is structured chronologically though there is no linear progression from one figure to the next.

**Course objectives**

* provide an introduction to the great texts of modern political theory
* examine the meaning and justification of important concepts such as sovereignty, freedom, equality and rights
* explore rival theoretical frameworks
* develop critical skills necessary to examine and assess complex theoretical arguments and assess their strengths and weaknesses.

**Course organization**

* Lectures will be delivered each week when there is no in-class essay assignment or discussion hour.
* The mid-term exam will be written in class and will last 90 minutes. The final exam will be written in class and will last 120 minutes. Students will be asked to explain and discuss (in a form of short essays) relevant issues covering the material explored in class and in the related readings. Critical assessment of the theories and arguments - as opposed to mere memorisation - is expected. The exam (as well as the research paper described below) is compulsory for all enrolled students.

**Course Material**

**Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*. University of Chicago Press.**

**Oakeshott, Michael. (2006). *Lectures in the history of political thought*. Vol. 1. Andrews UK Limited.**

***Note: All assigned readings are available at the Photocopy Centre at the Faculty Building.***

**Course grading**

Mid-term examination: 35% of final grade.

Final examination: 45% of final grade.

Other assignments and participations: 20% of final grade.

 - one in-class essay (10%)

- participation in class discussions (10%)

**Note:** Participation point is based on quality, not quantity, of in-class participation. More precisely, informed effort counts. It will be evident if you have not done the assigned reading in advance of class. Please *do* the reading. I leave open the possibility of including ‘pop quizzes’ as part of class participation.

**Plagiarism and Academic Standards**

Students should be familiar with what plagiarism is, and avoid it like the plague. Plagiarism—defined by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one’s own work, without acknowledgement—is unacceptable under any circumstances. It is essential that the source for your material is always clear to the reader. This does not apply only to direct quotes from a book or article; it applies to any point taken directly from something that you have read. Paraphrasing the work of others and presenting it without attribution as your own is unacceptable—a citation must be given. You should be sure that (i) direct quotes are always enclosed in quotation marks so that it is clear that you are not claiming to have written the phrases yourself; (ii) you always give the source of ideas and facts, including the precise page reference; and (iii) you cite your sources, not your source’s sources. If you engage in cheating or plagiarism, you will receive an F (0.0) grade for the course and you will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for academic dishonesty.

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| POLS 201- History of Political Thought I |
| Week 1 (20 September): Introduction to Political Thought |
| Going over the Syllabus, Course Rules, Assignments. |
| Week 2 (27 September): The Greek Image of the World- The Political Thought of the Ancient Greeks |
| Oakeshott, M. (2006). *Lectures in the history of political thought*, 45-98. |
| Week 3 (4 October): PLATO |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 33-89. |
| Week 4 (11 October): ARISTOTLE |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 118-154. |
| Week 5 (18 October): The Political Experience of the Ancient Romans & Roman Political Thought & Medieval Political Experience and Philosophy |
| Oakeshott, M. (2006). *Lectures in the history of political thought*, 176-292. |
| Week 6 (25 October): ST. AUGUSTINE ST. THOMAS AQUINAS |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 176-205.Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 248-275. |
| Week 7 (1 November): MARTIN LUTHER and JOHN CALVIN |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 318-355. |
| Week 8: (8 November) MID-TERM WEEK |
| IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAMINATION |
| Week 9 (15 November): The Character of a Modern European State & Modern European Political Thought - NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI |
| Oakeshott, M. (2006). *Lectures in the history of political thought*, 359-400.Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 296-317. |
| Week 10 (22 November): THOMAS HOBBES |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 396-420. |
| Week 11 (29 November): RENE DESCARTES |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 421-439. |
| Week 12 (6 December): BENEDICT SPINOZA |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 456-475. |
| Week 13 (13 December): JOHN LOCKE |
| Strauss, L., & Cropsey, J. (Eds.). (2012). *History of political philosophy*, pp. 476-512. |
| Week 14 (20 December): OVERVİEW |
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