

PS 326: Political Philosophy
Fañuchánan 2024

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| Instructor: | Kate L. Yusi |
| Email: | yusik@triton.uog.edu yusikate@gmail.com |
| Time and Date: | Monday and Wednesday 2:00PM – 3:20PM |
| Room: | HSS SBS Conference Room 2 nd Floor |
| Course Delivery | Face to Face |
| Office Hours: | TTH 9:30AM – 11:30AM FRI 11:00AM – 1:00PM |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course to Political Theory that focuses on one fundamental question that animates many of the problems of politics: what does it mean to be a human being? The articulation of the proper human remains central to our political imagination. This preoccupation with figuring out our ontological existence has resulted in an excavation, desecration, and/or erasure of the past to provide a particular rationality to the present political and juridical organization(s) of societies, whether it pertains to matters of citizenship, nationality, nation-state, belonging, sovereignty, ordering of life, adjudication of rights, among other things.

This course will allow the students to understand and (re)articulate their thoughts about what it means to be *human* of the world through and in conversation with the selected texts which, in turn, reveal the tensions, frictions, and gaps about held assumptions on modern politics.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE

| Course Student Learning Outcome (SLOs) | Program Learning Outcomes | Institutional Learning Outcomes |
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| Knowledge of alternative philosophical explanations for the existence of the State, and the ability to critically assess the strengths and weakness of a description of the “ideal” characteristic of a political leader | PS2: Apply theories to the study of domestic and international conflict PS5: Evaluate political speech and acts for their embedded values | ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO4: Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in democratic context |

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| | | ILO6: An appreciation of the arts and sciences |
| Skill of integrating ideas from noted political philosophers into their own answer key questions on the nature of justice and/or liberty | <p>PS1: Explain the American political system and its relationship to the Micronesian region</p> <p>PS4: Design a political research project that incorporates principles of social science inquiry</p> | <p>ILO1: Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving</p> <p>ILO4: Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in democratic context</p> <p>ILO6: An appreciation of the arts and sciences</p> |

COURSE REFERENCE

All course materials and supplemental resources are available on the Moodle course page. If you do not have a Moodle account, you can go to this [link](#) to find out how to. You can also contact Moodle Help at moodlehelp@triton.uog.edu or 671-735-2620/1.

Moodle Self-Enrollment Info:

Course Name: 
Enrollment Key: 

GRADED CONTRIBUTIONS

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| Attendance and Participation | 10 points |
| Short Reflection Papers | 20 points |
| Lecture Launch | 15 points |
| Midterm Exam | 25 points |
| Final Project | 30 points |

Grade Points are assigned as follows:

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|----|------------|--------------------|
| A+ | 100% - 98% | Outstanding |
| A | 97% - 93% | |
| A- | 92% - 90% | |
| B+ | 89% - 87% | Good |
| B | 86% - 83% | |
| B- | 82% - 80% | |
| C+ | 79% - 77% | Adequate |
| C | 76% - 70% | |
| D | 69% - 60% | Deficient |

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|----------|----------------------|----------------|
| F | 59% and below | Failure |
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Attendance and Participation (10)

Attendance is a required part of this class. Attendance will be taken at the **beginning** of every class. If you are late, it is your responsibility to see me at the end of the class to have your attendance recorded. Students who are more than 30 minutes late will not be counted as attending.

Attendance in this course will not only entail your presence in class but will also be based on how much you participate in the class discussions. Participation, too, will not be measured based on your objective knowledge about the topics and themes that we will be discussing in each session. I hope to see more engagement and participation by voicing your critical thoughts, raising questions that bother you the most in relation to our topic, and sharing anything that allows you to connect and understand our readings to current political situations, be it a TV show, a literary or graphic novel, a film, or any artwork (whether it's considered "low brow") that you love and think is/are instrumental in making clear some of the confusions you may encounter throughout the course.

Short Reflection Papers (20 points)

You are required to write **4** one-page (single-space) reflection papers on the required readings from any of the sessions listed in the course schedule. This reflection paper should be posted on **Moodle** under **Discussions** before the start of the session on which you decided to write a reflection paper. I will be making individual threads for each session for you to use. I'm encouraging students not simply to summarize the readings but to truly reflect on them since I will be randomly selecting a reflection paper to jump-start our class discussion.

Lecture Launch (15 points)

You are required to choose **one (1) session** in which you will be responsible for launching the class. A sign-up sheet for selecting your topics will be available in the semester.

Your job is to launch our discussion by doing the following:

1. Reminding us of 2 or 3 of the most salient points raised by the session's materials. What is or are the project/s? Why is it/they important? No summaries of readings.
2. Raising questions worthy of discussion, including your responses, agreements, disagreements, or confusions about the materials, and
3. The person who launches our class is invited to prepare in-class activities or exercises to stimulate discussion.

4. Each launch should take about 20 minutes. Part of doing a good launch is continuing to stay involved in the conversation after the 20 minutes, and “team-teach” the class with me. You are welcome to devise an exercise for the class in some other way.

Midterm Exam (25 points)

The midterm exam will be a take-home assessment comprising essay questions. Students are required to select and respond to three (3) out of five (5) questions within a week. Each chosen question must be answered comprehensively within 1000-1500 words, excluding direct quotations.

The midterm exam will run in Week 10, from **October 14 to October 20**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Final Project (30 points)

For the Final Project, you have two options:

Option 1: Traditional Academic Paper

You are required to submit a 10 to 12 page double-spaced paper about a topic of your choosing that will allow you to explore further some of the themes we discussed in this course. This is a space for students to write a traditional academic paper engaging with the materials we read in class. I hope that you will be able to bridge, reflect on, and think further through your personal and intellectual interests with the concepts you encountered in this class.

You have the option to make a 10-minute presentation of your project in class for an additional 5 points. This will count as an extra credit towards your final grade. Overall, you will be graded based on your ability to critically analyze rather than merely summarize your findings or work. An in-class peer-reviewed writing workshop where you will get feedback on your paper from me and other students will also be held before the submission of the final paper.

Option 2: Creative Work

You can choose to do creative work in place of a traditional academic paper for your final project. It can be in the form of a photo essay, a series of poems, a zine, a vlog series, or any creative work that you are interested in doing. Short TikTok clips are not allowed. Like the requirement for traditional academic papers, your creative work is a space for you to explore further some of the themes we discussed in this course.

It will be up to me if your submitted creative work is justified as a final project. So please do consult with me about what your plans will be. Additional assignments will be required to supplement your creative work in cases where I deem the work not justified to pass as a final project.

For both options, you are required to submit a working draft on November 13. The rough draft is part 10 points out of the 30 points for the Final Project. Meaning, that if you fail to submit a rough draft, the highest grade you will get for your Final Project is 20 points.

For the draft, I'm only looking for at least 2-3 pages of work. It can be an outline of your academic paper, a proposal, or an overview of the creative work and how the work is engaging with the concepts/topics we discussed, or what we will discuss in this course.

You have the option to make a 10-minute presentation of your project in class for an additional 5 points. This will count as an extra credit towards your final grade. Overall, you will be graded based on your ability to critically analyze rather than merely summarize your findings or work. An in-class peer-reviewed writing workshop where you will get feedback on your paper from me and other students will also be held before the submission of the final paper.

POLICIES

All required submissions are due by 11:59 PM unless another time is indicated in the syllabus. No late submission will be accepted. If you miss any work, feel free to contact me to discuss the matter.

Plagiarism

Students are expected to be honest in all their academic work. Academic honesty means, fundamentally, that any work you submit to this course must be really yours unless proper credit is given to the owner of the work. Academic dishonesty, in forms like plagiarism or cheating, will result in a failing grade in the course and possible disciplinary action by the university.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense that the university does not take lightly. For more information about plagiarism, feel free to read this:

<http://hasso.uog.edu:8080/jspui/libguides/Plagiarism.pdf>

EEO/ADA Statement

For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.

Student's Responsibilities

Students are expected to be courteous to and considerate of others. Be respectful while in class. Students who do their homework, follow the readings, and fully participate in the class will come

away with a better understanding of how philosophical reflection on human nature can influence legal, moral, and cultural assumptions.

Communication and Consultation Hours

Students are expected to be I'll answer all emails regarding the class within 24 hours except on weekends. You can also request a brief one-on-one session with me about the course or academic matters. Consultation is by appointment only via e-mail. Set an appointment as early as possible so I can set aside time for our consultation.

Change to the Syllabus

There may be changes to the syllabus as we go through the course. I will notify you at least a week in advance and provide the material you must read.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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| Week 1 August 14 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the syllabus |
| Week 2 August 19 | What is Political Philosophy? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheldon Wolin, <i>Politics and Vision</i>, Chapter 1 (p. 3-26) |
| August 21 | What is Justice? What is Ideal Society? What is the role of Philosopher-King? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books 1 & 2 (p. 1-15; p. 36-56) • Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books 5, 6, & 7 (p. 164-169; 181-195; 198-214; 236-7) |
| Week 3 August 26 | What is citizenship? What is human good? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>, Book III • Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, p. 142-165 |
| August 28 | How to rule? What is virtue and fortuna? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> |
| Week 4 September 4 | What is the state of nature? What is human nature? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, Volume II p. 82-110 |
| September 4 | What is sovereign power? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, Volume II p. 111-58 |
| Week 5 September 9 | What is the state of nature? What is freedom? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> |
| September 11 | What is property? What is the basis of political order? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locke, "Of Property," <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> |
| Week 6 September 16 | What is enlightenment? What is the end of history? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kant, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent" |
| September 18 | What is the effect of human progress? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i>, Book I & II |
| Week 7 September 23 | What is happiness? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>, selected texts |
| September 25 | On individuality and authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>, Chapter 3 & 4 |

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| Week 8 September 30 | The problem of capitalism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marx, Chapter V Historical Materialism, <i>Karl Marx: A Reader</i>, p. 169-210 <p>Rec Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hegel, "Master Slave Dialectic" |
| October 2 | What is communism? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marx, Chapter VII Marx's Theory of Politics, <i>Karl Marx: A Reader</i>, p. 257-299. |
| Week 9 Fall Break (No Class) | | |
| Week 10 October 14 | The problem of modern state | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mikhail Bakunin, <i>State and Anarchy</i> |
| October 16 | What is anarchism? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Nozick, <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i>, p. 957-969 <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MIDTERM EXAM PAPER DUE</u> <u>OCTOBER 20</u></p> |
| Week 11 October 21 | Why we need the state? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mazzini, <i>The Duties of Man</i> |
| October 23 | What is real democracy? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tse-tung, "On New Democracy" |
| Week 12 October 28 | What is the problem with modern focus on morality? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nietzsche, <i>On The Genealogy of Morality</i> |
| October 30 | What is ubermensch? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>, p. 829-840 |
| Week 13 November 4 | What is the relationship between knowledge and power? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault, <i>The Society Must Be Defended</i> |
| November 6 | What is biopolitics? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault, continuation |
| Week 14 November 13 | Feminist Theory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noelle McAfee, <i>Feminism: A Quick Immersion</i> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WORKING DRAFT DUE</u></p> |

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| Week 15 November 18 | Racism and Blackness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> |
| November 20 | Postcolonialism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward Said, <i>Orientalism</i> |
| Week 16 November 25 | What is posthumanism? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francesca Ferrando, “What is Philosophical Posthumanism,” <i>Philosophical Posthumanism</i> |
| November 27 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna Haraway, <i>A Cyborg Manifesto</i> |
| Week 17 December 2 | Non-Western Philosophy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Lerma, <i>Guided by the Mountains: Navajo Political Philosophy and Governance</i> |
| December 4 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harris, “Xunzi’s Political Philosophy” |
| Week 18 | | FINAL PAPER PRESENTATION |