

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Law, Business and Governance		
Course:	HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORIES		
Type:	Basic Training	ECTS credits:	6
Year:	2	Code:	7021
Teaching period:	Third semester		
Area:	Political Science		
Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	150		

Teaching staff	E-mail
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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

El curso, dirigido a estudiantes de grado, tendrá como objeto proporcionar al alumno una panorámica general acerca de algunas cuestiones escogidas de teoría política contemporánea. No se trata en ningún caso de proponer una lectura profunda y exhaustiva de los autores o de las cuestiones tratadas, sino de ofrecer una orientación que les permita, a unos, dotarse de una mínima armazón analítica, y, a otros, adquirir la base para poder profundizar en las cuestiones tratadas.

This course, designed for undergraduate students, seeks to provide students with a comprehensive overview of key aspects of contemporary political theory. Our goal is not to delve deeply into each author's work or extensively cover every topic but to offer guidance that will enable some students to establish a foundational analytical framework while allowing others to lay the groundwork for deeper exploration of these important issues. Throughout this course, we will explore various facets of contemporary political thought, offering a broad perspective on critical themes and prominent theorists. Our aim is to equip students with a fundamental understanding of these concepts, enabling them to engage in more in-depth analysis and research as they continue their academic journey.

GOAL

1. Provide students with a range of conceptual tools that enable them to navigate political realities with analytical ease. 2 To the extent possible, associate the acquisition of this competence with a certain knowledge of contemporary authors, works, and issues within the discipline of political theory.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Sería conveniente poseer algunas nociones básicas de teoría política o de historia de la filosofía.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Part I
Political Theory after IIWW
1.1 Leo Strauss
1.2 Eric Voegelin
1.3 Hannah Arendt
1.4 Isaiah Berlin
Part II
The Liberalism-Communitarianism Debate
2.1 John Rawls
2.2 Robert Nozick
2.3 Alasdair MacIntyre
2.4 Charles Taylor
2.5 Multiculturalism
Part III
What Place for the Enlightenment after World War II?
3.1 Basic Notions
3.2 The Frankfurt School: Max Horkheimer & Theodor W. Adorno
3.3 Hannah Arendt
3.4 Richard Rorty
3.4 Postmodernism
3.5 Current Vincications of the Enlightenment
Part IV
Thinking about the post-Cold War World
4.1 Fukuyama and the End of History
4.2 Pierre Manent and the Future of Political Action
4.3 The nature of populism
4.4 The future of political ideologies

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Reading assigned texts for each class, along with any supplementary materials students may require, will be an integral part of this course. Each session will begin with a professor-led presentation on the assigned text and topic, followed by substantive discussions. These discussions will emphasize the importance of enabling students to link the readings to current political developments, thereby facilitating a deeper comprehension of their relevance in the context of contemporary politics.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
50 hours	100 hours

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to consider and creatively respond to the essential questions as to the whys and wherefores, and the consequences of human, social, political and economic events of global society.

Specific skills

To compare and distinguish between the main contemporary political theories.

LEARNING RESULTS

El alumno distingue las distintas teorías políticas actuales, e identifica sus argumentos y contra-argumentos en las controversias actuales

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

55% > Final exam
35% > 2 Exams of Reading materials (17.5% each)
10% > Assistance, interest and general attitude

For those with a 'Dispensa académica', the final grade will be composed of 60% the final exam, and 40% for the two exams of the reading materials.

The 'convocatoria extraordinaria' will be evaluated in the same terms as the 'ordinaria'.

****Students with approved academic dispensation.** A student may obtain academic dispensation for reasons such as work, scheduling conflicts, illness, or other reasons determined by the Program Director, upon their request at the beginning of the semester, through Academic Coordination, by providing the required documentation. Once granted, both the affected professor and the requesting student will be officially notified by Academic Coordination.

****Students on their second or subsequent enrollment and UFV exchange students.** For these students, there is no need to request dispensation. These students may opt for the continuous assessment system, provided they meet all the requirements, including class attendance. Otherwise, they must follow the alternative assessment system. In any case, it is the responsibility of the student to monitor the course and its evaluation components. ****Plagiarism and the use of illegitimate means in assessment tests will be subject to sanctions as specified in the University's Evaluation Regulations and Code of Conduct.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

Alasdair MacIntyre After Virtue University of Notre Dame Press, 1981

Michael Oakeshott Rationalism in politics and other essays Liberty Fund, 1991

Max Horkheimer & Theodor W. Adorno Dialectic of Enlightenment Stanford University Press, 2002

Richard Rorty Contingency, Irony and Solidarity Cambridge University Press, 1989

Karl Popper The Open Society and Its Enemies; Volume One: The Spell of Plato Routledge, 2003

Stephen Holmes The Anatomy of Antiliberalism Harvard University Press, 1993

Leo Strauss Natural Right and History The University of Chicago Press, 1953.

Karen Lebacqz Six Theories of Justice Ausburg Publishing House, 1986

John Rawls A Theory of Justice Belknap Press, 1999.

Robert Nozick Anarchy, State and Utopia Basic Books, 1974

Cornelius Castoriadis Philosophy, Politics, Autonomy Oxford University Press, 1991

Pierre Manent The Religion of Humanity: The Illusion of Our Times St. Augustines Press, 2022.

Pierre Manent Natural Law and Human Rights: Toward a Recovery of Practical Reason University of Notre Dame Press, 2020.

Will Kymlicka Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction Oxford University Press, 2001.

Francis Fukuyama End of History and the Last Man Free Press, 2006.