### COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

**Number:** PSCI G150  
**TITLE:** Political Philosophy  
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**ORIGINATOR:** Margot Bowlby  
**EFF TERM:** Spring 2017  
**DATE OF OUTLINE/REVIEW:** 04-10-2017  
**CROSS LISTED COURSE:** PHIL G150  
**TOP NO:** 2207.00

**SEMESTER UNITS:** 3.0  
**HRS LEC:** 54.0  
**CONTACT HRS TOTAL:** 54.0  
**STUDY NON-CONTACT HRS RECOMMENDED:** 108.0

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**
This course introduces students to traditional philosophical issues concerning politics. Students will actively engage in an analysis of normative issues using historical insight as well as contemporary approaches. Among these issues are the nature of legitimate authority, political obligation, natural rights, equality and justice. The course emphasizes selections from the major works of such political philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx and Mill.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR COURSE:**

**PREREQUISITES:**

**COREQUISITES:**

**ADVISORIES:**

**ASSIGNED DISCIPLINES:**
- Philosophy
- Political science

**MATERIAL FEE:** Yes [ ] No [X] Amount: $0.00

**CREDIT STATUS:** Noncredit [ ] Credit - Degree Applicable [X] Credit - Not Degree Applicable [ ]

**GRADING POLICY:** Pass/No Pass [X] Standard Letter [X] Not Graded [ ] Satisfactory Progress [ ]

**OPEN ENTRY/OPEN EXIT:** Yes [ ] No [X]

**TRANSFER STATUS:** CSU Transferable[ ] UC/CSU Transferable[X] Not Transferable[ ]

**BASIC SKILLS STATUS:** Yes [ ] No [X]  
**LEVELS BELOW TRANSFER:** Not Applicable

**CALIFORNIA CLASSIFICATION CODES:** Y - Not Applicable

**NON CREDIT COURSE CATEGORY:** Y - Not applicable, Credit Course

**OCCUPATIONAL (SAM) CODE:** E

**REPEATABLE ACCORDING TO STATE GUIDELINES:** No [X] Yes [ ] NUMBER REPEATS:

**REQUIRED FOR DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE:** No [ ] Yes [X]
- Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Arts and Humanities(Associate in Arts)
- Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences(Associate in Arts)
- POLITICAL SCIENCE(Associate in Arts for Transfer)
- Political Science(Associate in Arts)
- Political Science(Associate in Arts for Transfer)

**GE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS MET:**
- IGETC Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences
  - 4H: Political Science, Government & Legal Institutions
- CSU GE Area C: Arts, Literature, Philosophy and Foreign Languages
PROGRAM LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

utilize appropriate investigative methods and appropriate technologies to access relevant research.

demonstrate knowledge of important findings, theories, and changing issues relevant to political science.

demonstrate critical thinking about political issues and evaluate theories’ and arguments’ major assertions, background assumptions, the evidence used to support assertions, and their explanatory value.

manage information and prepare and present their work effectively.

COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:

1. Identify the position of at least one philosopher regarding the legitimacy of the state.

2. Analyze the different assumptions and values about human nature and reality embedded in each body of theory and examine the way these starting premises shape the question asked and conclusions reached.

3. Evaluate the usefulness of each body of theory towards a better and more comprehensive understanding of political life and political institutions.

4. Demonstrate critical thinking through analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of the course content and present their work effectively.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Analyze the role of government and the relationship between government and individuals.

2. Describe and critique the contributions of classic and contemporary political theorists.

3. Evaluate various approaches to such normative questions as the nature of legitimate authority, political obligation, natural rights, equality and justice.

4. Debate normative standards of political behavior and processes.

5. Apply normative standards of political behavior to specific case studies.

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

Course Content Outline (with suggested readings)

A. Introduction to Political Philosophy and Thinking about the State
   1. Plato - *The Allegory of the Cave*
   2. Veil of Ignorance
   3. Plato - *Crito*

B. Justifying the State
   1. Aristotle’s Politics (Books I & II)
   2. Niccolo'Machiavelli, *The Prince*
   3. Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

C. Nature and Purpose of the State: Obligations to and from the State
   1. Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (excerpts)
METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture:
B. Online:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignments
Objective quizzes or exams that identify key concepts such as the state and/or identify key elements of philosophical positions;
Short essay exams that examine key issues such as the relationship between the state and the individual;
Critical analysis/research papers that examine and critique philosophical positions as they pertain to current issues.

Out-of-class Assignments
Reading assignments within textbook and additional web sources;
Interactive discussions utilizing the Blackboard shell - discussion board - component;
Research pertaining to philosophical issues.

Writing Assignments
1) Written exams, essays and papers focused on evaluating and analyzing normative arguments;
2) Assignments, both in class and written, that will compare and contrast various arguments;
3) In-class discussions during which students will informally present their ideas.

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:
Midterm Exam
Final Exam
Short Quizzes
Written Assignments
Essay Examinations
Objective Examinations
Report
Projects (ind/group)
Problem Solving Exercises
Oral Presentations
Demonstration of Critical Thinking:

1. On written assignments and/or essay questions, students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and analyze the theoretical positions concerning such issues as the relationship between man and the state, natural rights, justice and equality. 2. On written assignments and/or essay questions, students will compare and contrast the theoretical positions of two or more philosophers concerning such issues as the relationship between man and the state, natural rights, justice and equality.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:

1) Written exams, essays and papers focused on evaluating and analyzing normative arguments; 2) Assignments, both in class and written, that will compare and contrast various arguments; 3) In-class discussions during which students will informally present their ideas.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:

TextBooks:

LIBRARY:

Adequate library resources include: Non-Print Materials

Comments:

Attachments:

Attached Files