**POLS 201 HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT**

BOĞAZİÇİ UNIVERSITY, FALL 2019

**Instructor:** Gaye İLHAN DEMIRYOL

(You can address me as Professor İlhan)

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(This is the best way to contact me under all circumstances. If you contact me in any other way, it takes me much longer to see your message and get back to you.)

**Time:** Tuesdays 15:00-16:00 NH 105, Thursdays 10:00-12:00 NH301

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 13:30-15:00 or by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the first part of a year-long investigation into the history of Western political thought. Since the time of Socrates, philosophers have asked fundamental questions regarding the nature of justice, freedom, and equality; the duties and the rights of state or sovereign; citizenship, law and the relationship between these concepts. In this first part of the course, we will consider and evaluate the answers provided to these questions from Socrates to the modern times, through a close reading of the texts that have been decisive in the formation of Western political consciousness.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 17: Midterm 1**

**November 21: Midterm 2**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Midterm 1: 30 %**

**Midterm 2: 30 %**

**Final Exam: 40%**

**Participation & Attendance: ATTENDANCE IS NOT MANDATORY**. However, actively listening to the lecture, raising questions, and participating in class discussions is an important part of your university education. Please come to class having done the reading and ready to participate. You can earn up to **EXTRA 10 points** for your participation.

**Midterm and final exams:** Midterm and final exams will comprise of essay questions. They will cover the readings as well as the lectures. Midterm exam dates are indicated above.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Cell phone and Laptop Policy**

Please refrain from using cell phones and laptops in the classroom. The use of electronic devices in the classroom distracts you, impedes your learning and even lowers your grade. See this research:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01443410.2018.1489046>

**Make-ups**

Make-up exams will only be offered to students with a reliable proof of a serious health issue (eg. Certification from the University Health Center). Please contact me within one week of the midterm if you miss an exam and have a valid excuse.

**Late arrivals**

Late arrivals are very distracting for the instructor and your classmates. Please come to class on time.

**Classroom Conduct**

As political theorists, we engage in debates about highly controversial topics, about which your classmates might have differing and passionate personal opinions. You are expected to respect your classmates’ ideas and comments. Also, I encourage you to freely raise your hand and ask questions. Please use this classroom as an opportunity to improve your English language proficiency.

**Academic Integrity**

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. The **Department of Political Science and International Relations** at Boğaziçi University has the following **rules** and **regulations** regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes **cheating**.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute **plagiarism**.
3. **Plagiarism and cheating** are serious **offenses** and will result in:
4. an **automatic** **“F”** for the assignment or the exam
5. an oral explanation before the **Departmental Ethics Committee**
6. losing the opportunity to request and receive any **references** from the **entire** faculty
7. losing the opportunity to apply in **exchange programs**
8. losing the prospects of becoming a **student assistant** or a **graduate assistant** in the department

The students may further be sent to the **University Ethics committee** or be subject to **disciplinary action**.

**A note about recommendations:**

If you are planning to ask for a recommendation from me this semester or in the future, please study hard and plan to earn at least a B in this course.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

There is no textbook for this course. It is, therefore, very important that you pay attention to the lectures and do the assigned readings carefully and in a timely manner. The primary literature is readily available on the internet. I will post a link to the readings, or the readings themselves in an online folder and send you a link. The course will proceed chronologically, and according to the following schedule. I will keep you appraised of the readings as the term progresses.

1. **Introduction to the Themes of the Course (Sept. 19)**
2. **What is Political Philosophy? (Sept. 24)**

* David Miller. 2003. *Political Philosophy. A very short Introduction*. Chapter 1: “Why do we need political philosophy?”
* Smith, Steven B. 2000. “Political Science and Political Philosophy: An Uneasy Relation.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 33 (2): 189–91.
* Mayhew, David R. 2000. “Political Science and Political Philosophy: Ontological Not Normative.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 33 (2): 192–93.

1. **Socratic Citizenship (Sept. 26 – Oct. 8)**

* Plato, *Apology*
* Plato, *Crito*

***Recommended:***

* BBC, Genius of the Ancient World: Episode 2, Socrates

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_-uAEPNvTzo>

* BBC, In our Time: Socrates

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007zp21>

* The Partially Examined Life Podcast. Episode 149: Plato’s Crito:

<https://partiallyexaminedlife.com/2016/10/17/ep149-plato-crito/>

1. **Plato (Oct. 10 – 22)**

* *The Seventh Letter*, Selections
* *Republic*, Books I, II, III (412b-417b), IV, V (473b-480), VII (514a-521b)

***Recommended:***

* *BBC, A History of ideas podcast: Angie Hobbs on Plato’s Philosopher Kings*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b062mxfp>

* BBC4, The Cave. Episode 3: Plato’s Cave

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01k28wj>

1. **Aristotle (Oct. 24 – Nov.7)**

* *Politics*, Books I (Chapters 1-7, 12-13) , III (1-13), IV (11), VII (1-4)

***Recommended:***

* *BBC, A history of political thought: Plato and Aristotle*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p039711j>

* BBC, In our time: Aristotle’s Politics

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00f8530>

1. **Machiavelli (Nov. 12 – Nov.26)**

* *The Prince*
* *The Discourses*, Chapters 1-9

***Recommended:***

* *BBC, A history of political thought: Machiavelli*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0397123>

* BBC4, The Forum: Machiavelli – The Master of Power

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b092hsdv>

1. **Hobbes (Nov. 28 – Dec.12)**

* *Leviathan*, Chapters 13-18

***Recommended:***

* *BBC4, A History of Ideas Podcast: Thomas Hobbes and Civil Disobedience:*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05pqskp>

* BBC, In our time podcast: Hobbes

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p003k9l1>