##### Pols 301: Political Philosophy

Fall 2020

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This course is a general survey of political thought. It is organized around certain concepts and ideas that have played a key role in the historical evolution of political thinking both in Central and Western Europe and in the Turco-Ottoman speaking territories.

**Course Expectations:**

1. Midterm exam (40 % of the total grade)
2. Final exam ((40 % of the total grade)
3. Indeterminate number of unannounced quizzes (20 % of your total grade)

The course is a lecture that is open class discussions. Relevant and meaningful contribution to class discussions may lead to a raise in your final grade by a full letter grade!

**Readings:** All of the readings are available in the “resources” of SUCourse.

**Plan of the class sessions and readings:**

**Oct 7**  Introduction

**I. What is Political Philosophy?**

**Oct 8**  \*Raymond Geuss, Philosophy and Real Politics, pp.21-55

**II. Virtue**

**Oct 14-15** \*Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, pp.3-15

 \*Aristotle, Politics, pp.1-9

**Oct 21-22** \*Niccolo Machiavelli, Prince, pp.5-63

**Oct 28-29 No Class**

**Nov 4-5** \*Robert Dahl, “Problem of Civic Competence,” Journal of Democracy, v.3, n.4, 1992, pp.45-59

\*Stephen Macedo, “The Constitution, Civic Virtue, and Civil Society: Social Capital as Substantive Morality” Fordham Law Review, 69/5, 2001, pp. 1573-1595

**III. Freedom**

**Nov 11-12** \*Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, pp.82-95

\*Kant, “What is Enlightenment,” pp.1-7

**Nov 18-19** \*Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities and Human Rights,” Fordham Law Review, 66/2, 1997, pp.273-300

**Nov 25 No Class**

**Nov 26 Exam**

**Dec 2-3** \*J. Waldron, “Theoretical Foundations of Liberalism,” The Philosophical Quarterly, vol.37 (1987), pp.127-150

\*D. Harvey, “Neo-Liberalism as Creative Destruction,” Geografiska Annaler, vol.88, no.2 (2006), pp.145-158

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**IV. Domination and Ideology**

**Dec 9-10** \*Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto, pp.14-66

**Dec 16-17** \*Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morals, pp.

**Dec 23-24** \*Theodor Adorno & Max Horkheimer, “The Culture Industry,” pp.1-17

\*Herbert Marcuse, “Liberation from the Affluent Society,” Critical Theory and Society: A Reader, pp.276-287

**V. Justice and Order in Turkish Political Thought**

**December 30-31** \*Ottoman Political Thinkers 1400s-1600s, *selection*

\*Linda Darling, “Islamic Empires, the Ottoman Empire and the Circle of Justice,” in Constitutional Politics in the Middle East (ed) Said Amir Arjomand (London: Hart Publishing), 2008, pp.11-32

**January 6-7**  \*Rescript of Gülhane (1839)

\*Rescript of Islahat (1856)

 \*The Ottoman Constitution of 1876

\* Aylin Koçunyan “The Transcultural Dimension of the Ottoman Constitution,” in Well-Connected Domains (ed) Pascal Firges, et. Al (Leiden: Brill), 2014, pp.235-258