##### Pols 301: Political Theory I

Fall 2021

Nedim Nomer

Fass 1052, ext.9327

nedim.nomer@sabanciuniv.edu

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 (50 % of the total grade)
2. Final exam ((50 % of the total grade)

The date of makeup examinations for both exams will be determined after consulting with those students who miss those exams with valid reasons.

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:**

**Sept 27**  Introduction

**I. What is Political Theory?**

**Sept 28** \*Brian Barry, “Why Political Science Needs Political Theory,” Scandinavian Political Studies, v.25, n. 2002, pp.107-115

**Oct 4-5** \*Raymond Geuss, Philosophy and Real Politics, pp.21-55

\*David Runciman, “History of Political Thought,” British Journal of Politics and International Affairs, v.3, n.1, 2001, pp.84-104

**II. Virtue**

**Oct 11-12** \*Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, pp.3-15

\*Aristotle, Politics, pp.1-9

**Oct 18-19** \*Niccolo Machiavelli, Prince, pp.5-38

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

**III. Freedom**

**Oct 25-26** \*Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, pp.82-95

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

**Nov 1-2** \*Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities and Human Rights,” Fordham Law Review, 66/2, 1997, pp.273-300

**IV. Popular Government**

**Nov 8-9** \*J.J. Rousseau, “The Social Contract” in The Democracy Sourcebook (TDS) ed. R Dahl, I Shapiro, J.A. Cheibub (MIT Press, 2003), pp.2-4

\*James Madison,TDS, pp.118-125

**Nov 15 Exam**

**Nov 16 Review of the Exam**

**Nov 22-23** \*Adam Przeworski, “Minimalist Conception of Democracy” TDS, pp.12-16

\*A. Gutmann and D. Thompson, “Democracy and Disagreement,” TDS, pp.18-24

**V. Domination and Ideology**

**Nov 29-30** \*Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto, pp.14-66

**Dec 6-7 \***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

**VI. Turco-Ottoman Political Thought**

**Dec 13-14** \*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

\*Ottoman Political Thinkers 1400s-1600s, *selection*

**Dec 20-21** \*Rescript of Gülhane (1839)

\*Rescript of Islahat (1856)

\*The Ottoman Constitution of 1876

**Dec 27-28** \*Ziya Gökalp, The Principles of Turkism(trans.) Robert Devereux, pp.22-

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\*Nedim Nomer, “Ziya Gökalp’s Idea of Cultural Hybridity” British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, 44/3, pp.404-428