##### Pols 301: Political Theory I

Fall 2022

M 8:40-9:30, Fass G049

Th 12:40-14:30, Fass G022

Nedim Nomer

Fass 1052, ext.9327

nedim.nomer@sabanciuniv.edu

office hours: M 9:30-11:00, Fass 1052

This course is a thematic survey of the history of political thought. The main goal of the course is to make clear the place, role, and importance of political ideas for political science, and the human sciences more generally. Although the course will very roughly follow the historical evolution of political thinking, that history is compartmentalized around some clusters or ideas or concepts 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. Hence this course is also an invitation to move beyond the East-West divide.

**Course Expectations:**

1. Midterm exam (45 % of the total grade)
2. Final exam ((45 % of the total grade)
3. An indeterminate number of unannounced quizzes (10 %)

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:**

**Oct 3**  Introduction

**I. What is Political Theory and why is it important for political science?**

**Oct 3-4** \*Brian Barry, “Why Political Science Needs Political Theory,” Scandinavian Political Studies, v.25, n.1, 2002, pp.107-115

\*Barry Weingast, “A Rational Choice Perspective on the Role of Ideas: Shared Belief Systems and State Sovereignty in International Cooperation,” Politics and Society, v.23, n.4, 1995, pp.449-464

**Oct 10-11** \*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 17-18** \*Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, pp.3-15

 \*Aristotle, Politics, pp.1-9

**Oct 24-25** \*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 31-Nov 1** \*Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, pp.82-95

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

**Nov 7-8** \*Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities and Human Rights,” Fordham Law Review, 66/2, 1997, pp.273-300

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

**IV. Popular Government**

**Nov 14-15** \*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 22 Midterm Exam**

**Nov 28-29** \*Adam Przeworski, “Minimalist Conception of Democracy” TDS, pp.12-16

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

**Dec 5-6** \*Cas Mudde & Cristobal R.Kaltwasser, Populism: A very short Introduction, Oxford UP (2009), pp.79-96

**V. Domination and Ideology**

**Dec 12-13** \*Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto, pp.14-66

**Dec 19-20 \***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 26-27** \*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*

**Jan 2-3** \*Rescript of Gülhane (1839)

\*Rescript of Islahat (1856)

 \*The Ottoman Constitution of 1876