Course Outline

**COURSE:** POLS 12  
**DIVISION:** 10  
**ALSO LISTED AS:** PHIL 12

**TERM EFFECTIVE:** Spring 2018  
**CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE:** 04/24/2017

**SHORT TITLE:** INTRO/POL THOUGHT

**LONG TITLE:** Introduction to Political Thought

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Units</th>
<th>Number of Weeks</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Contact Hours/Week</th>
<th>Total Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Lecture:</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lab:</td>
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<td>Other:</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides students with an introduction to and grounding in classical and modern political thought. Students will be introduced to theorists such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, and Marx. Students will also examine such timeless questions as: "What is justice?" "What is the good life?" and "What is power?" among others. This course is also listed as PHIL 12. Previously POLS 2. (C-ID: POLS 120)

**PREREQUISITES:**

**COREQUISITES:**

**CREDIT STATUS:** D - Credit - Degree Applicable

**GRADING MODES**

  L - Standard Letter Grade

**REPEATABILITY:** N - Course may not be repeated

**SCHEDULE TYPES:**

  02 - Lecture and/or discussion

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Identify significant political theories held by major philosophers (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Marx, Rawls, Locke, Kant, etc.)

Measure of assessment: Quiz, Exam, Group Discussion

Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2018

Semester: Spring

5/15/2017
2. Analyze arguments in political philosophy concerning human nature, justice, rights, government, liberty, law, power, liberalism, etc.
   Measure of assessment: Quiz, Exam, Group Discussion
   Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2018
   Semester: Spring
3. Apply philosophical theories to current political and social issues.
   Measure of assessment: Quiz, Exam, Group Discussion
   Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2018
   Semester: Spring
4. Evaluate the tension between the common good and individual rights.
   Measure of assessment: Quiz, Exam, Group Discussion
   Year assessed, or planned year of assessment: 2018
   Semester: Spring

CONTENT, STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES, OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
Curriculum Approval Date: 04/24/2017

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>CONTENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Course overview, requirements, grading, goal and objectives; What is political theory?; What is &quot;human nature&quot;?; Greek society.</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS: In-class writing assignment #1: description and application of one major theory; quiz 1; Cahn: Preface

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will analyze the nature of human nature; students will learn what theory is; students will learn to distinguish good from bad theory.

6 The Ancients: Plato and Aristotle

ASSIGNMENTS: In-class writing assignment #2: short analysis of Plato's Republic or Aristotle's Politics; Quiz 2; Cahn: Plato and Aristotle chapters.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn who Plato and Aristotle were; Students will read excerpts of Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Politics; students will critically read both texts.

Renaissance, Reformation, and Counter-Reformation:

3 Machiavelli and Modernity.

ASSIGNMENTS: In-class writing assignment #3: short analysis of Machiavelli's Prince; Quiz 3; Cahn: Machiavelli chapter

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn who Machiavelli was; students will read excerpts from Machiavelli's Prince; students will identify the emerging trend of
ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz 4; Cahn: Hobbes and Locke chapters
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn who Locke and Hobbes were; students will read excerpts from Hobbes' Leviathan and Locke's Two Treatises on Government; students will critically analyze the causes and theoretical consequences of the English Civil War.

3  Exam I Review; Exam I
3  Liberalism and the Decline of Political Theory.
ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz 5, Cahn: John Stuart Mill chapter p.1
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn the value of citizenship in a liberal society; students will critically analyze the causes and consequences of the ostensible decline of political theory.

6  The 18th Century: Age of Reason and the Rise of the Masses.
ASSIGNMENTS: In-class writing assignment #4: short analysis of Diderot's Encyclopedia; Quiz 6;
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn who Denis Diderot was; students will read excerpts from Diderot's Encyclopedia; students will analyze the concept of community.

6  Adam Smith and Edmund Burke: Capitalism and the Roots of Revolution.
ASSIGNMENTS: Quiz 7; Cahn: Adam Smith and Burke chapters
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn who Adam Smith and Edmund Burke were; students will read excerpts from Smith's The Wealth of Nations and Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France; students will critically analyze the concepts capitalism and Revolution.

6  The 19th Century: JS Mill and Liberty; Marx & Communism.
ASSIGNMENTS: In-class writing assignment #5: Critical analysis of Mill's On Liberty or Marx's Communist Manifesto; Quiz 8; Cahn: John Stuart Mill chapter p.2
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn who Mill and Marx were; students will read excerpts
from Mill's On Liberty and Marx's Communist Manifesto; students will identify the concepts alienation, exploitation, and economic democracy.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:
Required Outside Hours: 3
Assignment Description: Two short essays in which the students will critically analyze a given political theory for rigor, consistency, and applicability to "real world" considerations.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
Lecture, student-led learning, group based problem solving; self-directed research, two standard political theory texts.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:
Writing assignments
Percent of total grade: 50.00 %
50% - 70% Essay exams; Term papers; Essay: 1) 5 in-class writing assignments (short 1-2 page essays) 2) all 3 exams include essay-based questions 3) research paper (8-10 pages) Non-computational problem-solving: Using theory, theorists biographies, and problem-solving exercises to better understand human nature, good and evil, the role of women in modern society, alienation and so on.
Problem-solving assignments
Percent of total grade: 10.00 %
10% - 30% Exams
Skill demonstrations
Percent of total grade: 10.00 %
10% - 30% Performance exams; Skill demonstration: 1) 9 quizzes, 2) 5 in-class writing assignments, 3) 8-10 page research paper 4) in-class discussions, small group projects, 5) 3 exams (including final) Multiple Choice:
Objective examinations
Percent of total grade: 10.00 %
10% - 30% Multiple choice; True/false

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:
Required Representative Textbooks
Steven M. Cahn. Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts, or other appropriate college level text.. Oxford University Press, 2014.
This text is the most comprehensive and thorough anthology of political philosophy currently available.
Reading Level of Text, Grade: 13+ Verified by: Publisher

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION
Associate Degree:
GAV D2, effective 201570
CSU GE:
CSU D, effective 201570
CSU D8, effective 201470
IGETC:
IGETC 4H, effective 201570
CSU TRANSFER:
Transferable CSU, effective 201570

5/15/2017