



5055 Santa Teresa Blvd  
Gilroy, CA 95023

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### 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

<u>Units</u>	<u>Number of Weeks</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Contact Hours/Week</u>	<u>Total Contact Hours</u>
3	18	Lecture:	3	54
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54

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Out of Class Hrs:            108.00

Total Learning Hrs:        162.00

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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)

**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

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

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Curriculum Approval Date: 04/24/2017

**HOURS CONTENT**

6 Course overview, requirements, grading, goal and objectives; What is political theory?; What is "human nature?"; Greek society.

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:

**COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):**

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 "modernity."

3 17th Century England: Puritanism and Liberalism, Locke and Hobbes.

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 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.

**COURSE CONTENT(CONTINUED):**

3 Exam II Review; EXAM II 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:**

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.

ISBN: ISBN-13: 978-0190201081

Reading Level of Text, Grade: 13+ Verified by: Publisher

**ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION**

Associate Degree:

GAV C2

GAV D2

GAV Area 3 = Arts & Humanities

CSU GE:

CSU C2

CSU D

CSU D8

IGETC:

IGETC 3B

IGETC 4H

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC

**SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:**

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

C-ID: (POLS 120)

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Course Control Number: CCC000168205

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 220700