

Identification	Subject (code, title, credits)	PSIR 305: History of Political Thought 3KU / 6ECTS credits 15 Weeks, 60 hours	
	Department	Political Science and Philosophy	
	Level	Undergraduate	
	Term	Fall 2026	
	Instructor	Rahil Dadashli	
	E-mail:	rahil.dadashli@khazar.org	
	Phone:		
	Classroom/hours	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)	
		Office hours	By appointment
Prerequisites			
Language		English	
Compulsory/Elective			
Required textbooks and course materials		Core readings: 1. McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. 2. Roberts, P. & Sutch, P. (2012) An Introduction to Political Thought. Edinburgh University Press 3. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1999) The Social Contract (Book I-II-III), Oxford: Oxford University Press. 4. Handbook of Political Theory (2004) Ed. Gerald F. Gaus & Chandran Kukathas Sage Publications. 5. Cambridge History of Political thought (2008) Ed.J.H. Burnes. Cambridge University Press. 6. Price, A. (2008) Contemporary Thought. Chelsea House. 7. Whelan, F. (2015) The Political Thought of Hume and His Contemporaries. Routledge. 8. Heywood, A. (2003) Political Ideologies. Palgrave. <i>Note: Additional core and suggested readings will be provided by the instructor every week.</i>	
Course outline		The course offers main conceptual frameworks to dive deep into the political ideas of the modern period starting with the Enlightenment era and follow through on to the 19 th century. Students will be presented with the information on how the ideas of the past helped to transform and constitute the present-day political theories and political landscape overall.	
Course objectives		The aim of the course is to provide comprehensive understanding on the development of political ideas and their evolution, as well as to examine and analyze such concepts as justice, legitimacy, equality, democracy, sovereignty, and social order.	
Learning outcomes		1. Examine political thought through the Enlightenment period till present days based on the works of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, Kant, Hume etc. 2. Compare and contrast the concepts of justice, freedom, equality, citizenship, and sovereignty in the works Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, Kant, Hume etc. 3. Explain the different versions of, and importance of, the state of nature to political thought;	
	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm Exam	8 th week	30
	Book reading	During a semester	10

	Presentation	During the semester	10								
	Active participation	During the semester	10								
	Attendance	During the semester	5								
	Final exam	At the end of semester	35								
Policy	• Preparation for class The structure of this course makes your individual study and preparation outside the class extremely important. The lecture material will focus on the major points introduced in the text. Reading the assigned chapters and having some familiarity with them before class will greatly assist your understanding of the lecture. After the lecture, you should study your notes and work relevant problems from the end of the chapter and sample exam questions. After each lesson for the next class all students are required to be well-prepared and answer the questions. The core reading materials are emphasized in <i>bold italic</i> scripts in respective places in the tentative schedule. The rest of the given materials are supplementary and are highly advised to read. If a student shows irresponsible manner and do not get prepared for the class for more than 2 successive lessons appropriate marks will be deduced. • Withdrawal (pass/fail) This course strictly follows grading policy of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Thus, a student is normally expected to achieve a mark of at least 60% to pass. In case of failure, he/she will be required to repeat the course the following term or year. • Book reading During the semester, students are required to read several books that provide in-depth insights into political philosophy, theories and basic understandings. The recommended books will be shared in the class. • Presentations Students will be given relevant topics related to the course and tasked with conducting mini research to create a presentation. Additionally, if a student proposes an exceptional topic, they may be assigned their preferred subject. Presentations are required to be in Power Point (.ppt or similar formats). Each student will have their own deadline, and failure to meet this deadline will result in a score of "0" for this section. The evaluation criteria are outlined below: <table><tr><td>Criteria</td><td>Share of points</td></tr><tr><td>Content</td><td>0-2</td></tr><tr><td>Organization and Structure</td><td>0-2</td></tr><tr><td>Clarity and Visuals</td><td>0-2</td></tr></table>			Criteria	Share of points	Content	0-2	Organization and Structure	0-2	Clarity and Visuals	0-2
Criteria	Share of points										
Content	0-2										
Organization and Structure	0-2										
Clarity and Visuals	0-2										

Overall Impact and Creativity	0-2
Use of Visual Aids (if applicable)	0-2
Total	0-10

Guideline for the presentation preparation:

1. Title Slide
2. Introduction (Briefly introduce yourself and your topic. State the purpose or main goal of the presentation. Provide an overview of what the audience can expect.
3. Agenda or Outline (Outline the main sections or topics you will cover in the presentation)
4. Main Content (Should be organized in logical way, divide your presentation into several sections or topics)
5. Conclusion (Summarize the main points of your presentation)
6. References and Sources (Include a slide with citations or sources if you've used external material)

- Paper (If required)

Students must write a research paper on assigned topic. Requirements are as below:

- *Utilize a 13 Times New Roman font.*
- *Maintain a line spacing of 1.5.*
- *The total page count should encompass the bibliography, but it should exclude the cover page and table of contents.*
- *This paper constitutes 10% of the overall grade.*
- *A grace period of 3 days is allowed, during which the paper's score will be reduced by 1, 2, and 3 points on each successive day.*

The instructor will evaluate the student's paper based on seven distinct segments:

1. Paper format and organization
2. Clarity of the research question, argument, and methodology within the text
3. Quality and depth of the discussion
4. Strength and relevance of the conclusion
5. Use of clear and precise academic English
6. Consistency in citation style
7. Adequacy and appropriateness of the bibliography

- Cheating/plagiarism

Cheating or other plagiarism during the Mid-term and Final Examinations and in Paper and Presentations will lead to cancellation. In this case, the student will automatically get zero (0), without any consideration.

- Exams

To assess students' preparedness in the course, both mid-term and final exams will be administered, with the specific dates determined by the dean's

office. Typically, mid-term exams will commence around the midpoint of the course, while the final exam will be scheduled at the conclusion of the course. The point allocation is as below:

Question	<i>Mid-term</i>	<i>Final</i>
1 st Question	6 points	7 points
2 nd Question	6 points	7 points
3 rd Question	6 points	7 points
4 th Question	6 points	7 points
5 th Question	6 points	7 points

On the exam paper, students will encounter 5 questions. Each chosen question in the mid-term exam holds a weight of 6 points, and in the final exam, it carries a value of 7 points. The questions are open-ended, and the evaluation will consider the development of English language skills, comprehension of the question, and the organization of the answers, aiming to enhance these aspects during the assessment process.

AI Policy

This policy governs the responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) in coursework and research. It applies to undergraduate students and academic researchers, ensuring transparency, integrity, and accountability.

GAI may support learning and research by helping organize ideas, checking grammar, or assisting with planning. However, it must never replace original analysis, creativity, or independent thinking. All uses of GAI must be disclosed clearly in assignments, projects, theses, and publications. Example: “ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2025) was used for language editing. All ideas and conclusions are my own.”

Students may use GAI only as a supportive tool, with a maximum of twenty-five percent of text-based assignments. Its use is strictly prohibited in exams, quizzes, and graded in-class assessments. Researchers may use GAI for structuring, editing, and idea generation, but not for writing entire papers, fabricating references, or producing false data. Accuracy must always be verified.

Violations include hidden or unauthorized use, failure to disclose, plagiarism, or data falsification. Penalties may involve warnings, resubmission, grade reduction, or disciplinary action. Instructors and supervisors must specify permitted levels of GAI use in syllabi or research guidelines.

GAI is allowed only as a supportive tool. Students remain fully responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of their work.

Tentative Schedule

<i>Date</i>		<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>18.09.2026</i>	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>Introducing Syllabus and Plan of the Course</i>

			<i>Discussion of the main concepts.</i>
2	25.09.2026	<i>Immanuel Kant</i> • <i>Cosmopolitanism, autonomy, moral law</i>	<i>Perpetual Peace, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>
3	02.10.2026	<i>Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel</i> • <i>Dialectics, ethical life, state and freedom</i>	<i>Philosophy of Right</i>
4	09.10.2026	<i>Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels</i> • <i>Historical materialism, class struggle</i>	<i>Communist Manifesto, German Ideology</i>
5	16.10.2026	<i>Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill</i> • <i>Individual liberty, utilitarianism, democracy</i>	<i>On Liberty, Considerations on Representative Government</i>
6	23.10.2026	• <i>Antonio Gramsci</i>	<i>McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 27</u></i>
7	30.10.2026	• <i>Vilfredo Pareto</i>	<i>Materials will be provided</i>
		<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>No class</i>
8	13.11.2026	<i>Gustave Le Bon</i> • <i>The Psychology of Crowds and Mass Politics</i>	<i>The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind (1895)</i>
9	20.11.2026	<i>Max Weber</i> • <i>Legitimacy, bureaucracy, disenchantment</i>	<i>Politics as Vocation</i>
10	27.11.2026	<i>Carl Schmitt</i> • <i>Sovereignty, friend/enemy distinction</i>	<i>The Concept of the Political</i>
11	04.11.2026	<i>Hannah Arendt</i> • <i>Action, plurality,</i>	<i>The Human Condition, Origins of Totalitarianism</i>

		<i>totalitarianism</i>	
12	11.12.2026	<i>Jürgen Habermas</i> • <i>Deliberative democracy, rational discourse</i>	<i>The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, Theory of Communicative Action</i>
13	18.12.2026	<i>John Rawls</i> • <i>Justice as fairness vs. libertarianism</i>	<i>A Theory of Justice</i>
14	25.12.2026	<i>Students Presentations</i>	<i>Students should present their case-study reports (the length of the presentation is no more than 15 minutes)</i>
15	TBH	<i>Final Exam</i>	

Additional readings and assignments will be provided by the instructor for this course.
If necessary, some minor modifications may be made to this syllabus by the instructor.