

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	Rahimakhanim Hasanova	
	E-mail:	rhasanova@khazar.org	
	Classroom/hours	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)	
		Office hours	By appointment
Language	English		
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory		
Required textbooks and course materials	<i>Core readings:</i> 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. Handbook of Political Theory (2004) Ed. Gerald F. Gaus & Chandran Kukathas Sage Publications. 4. Cambridge History of Political thought (2008) Ed.J.H. Burns. Cambridge University Press. 5. Price, A. (2008) Contemporary Thought. Chelsea House. 6. Whelan, F. (2015) The Political Thought of Hume and His Contemporaries. Routledge. 7. Rosen, M. & Wolff, J. (1999). <i>Political Thought</i> . Oxford University Press. <i>Note: Additional core and suggested readings will be provided by the instructor every week.</i>		
Course description	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 21 st 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 Kant, Hegel, Engels, Weber, Gramsci etc. 2. Compare and contrast the concepts of justice, freedom, equality, citizenship, and sovereignty in the work Kant, Hegel, Engels, Weber, Gramsci etc. 3. Explain the different versions of, and importance of, the state of nature to political thought;		
Teaching methods	Group discussion		x
	Lecture		x
	Case analysis		x
Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30

	Open-ended Quiz	30.11.2026	10
	Presentation	21.12.2026	10
	Active participation at the seminars	During the semester	10
	Class attendance	During the semester	5
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	35
	Total		100
Policy	You are expected to: - attend classes on a regular basis as the classes are conducted in a combined lecture/seminar format where students should <u>play an active part</u>. - read the assigned and suggested readings before you come to class - engage actively in classroom discussions - offer thoughtful and informed classroom presentations and written work - submit all your assignments on time - follow assignments closely and carefully. Class attendance: Students are required to comply with the attendance policy of Khazar University. Full-time students are expected to attend all classes unless they are sick or have permission of the instructor (<i>approved absence</i>). A student must submit an absence request in anticipation of an absence from the course. In case he/she fails to do so, his absence will be considered unapproved. Specifically, to be eligible for taking exams, students must not miss more than 20% of class hours (<i>unapproved absences</i>). Otherwise, the student can take the exam only with the approval of the School Dean. Continuing unapproved absences or lack of participation may lead to withdrawal from the course. Academic misconduct Academic honesty plays an essential part in maintaining the integrity of Khazar University. Students are expected to recognize and uphold high standards of intellectual and academic integrity. The following acts are examples of academic dishonesty, therefore are strictly forbidden and will, if proven, be penalized: - plagiarism, - cheating, - unauthorized collaboration, - falsification, - multiple submissions. <i>On plagiarism:</i> Plagiarism is unethical and an <u>offence</u> under the University regulations. Please familiarize yourself with the regulations relating to plagiarism and cheating in examinations. Plagiarism is copying other people's work without <u>proper</u> attribution. The students committing plagiarism and the students providing materials for plagiarizing will automatically receive a zero (0) for the assignment. Students must always indicate that they used someone else's words and ideas if they have done so, by using quotation marks and mentioning the source in the text		

or a footnote. A bibliography must also follow after the end of your essays.

AI Policy

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) tools in this course is permitted as a supportive component of the learning process, provided that students comply with Khazar University's Rules for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence.

Students may use GAI tools for:

- organizing information and course materials;
- generating ideas and planning the structure of academic work;
- exploring different perspectives and comparing arguments;
- checking grammar, spelling, and writing style;
- supporting learning and reviewing course materials.

However, GAI tools must not replace students' independent thinking, critical analysis, creativity, or academic work. Students remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of all submitted work. Any use of GAI must be transparently disclosed in accordance with the University's citation and disclosure requirements.

The use of GAI is **not permitted during examinations or other assessment activities where the instructor has prohibited its use.**

Students must not submit GAI-generated content as their own work or use GAI to produce assignments or projects in whole or in substantial part. The use of personal, confidential, internal University, examination, assessment, or other protected information in GAI tools is also prohibited.

• 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:

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)

Open-ended Quiz The purpose of the Open-ended Quiz is to develop students' ability to think independently, formulate their own ideas, and express their thoughts clearly and effectively in written form. This assessment encourages students to move beyond memorization by critically engaging with the course topics and constructing well-reasoned written responses. The quiz should include: Critical Thinking (2 points): Carefully consider each question, analyze the topic from different perspectives, and demonstrate your own understanding and interpretation. Argumentation (2 points): Provide logical arguments and explain your position rather than giving brief or purely descriptive answers. Application of Knowledge (2 points): Use concepts, theories, and ideas discussed in class to support and develop your answers. Examples and Evidence (2 points): Where appropriate, use relevant examples, cases, or evidence from course readings and class discussions to strengthen your arguments. Submission: Complete and submit the quiz by [specify deadline] via [specify submission method, e.g., email, online portal]. 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: On the midterm exam paper, students will encounter six potential questions, but they are only required to select and respond to three of them. Each chosen question in the mid-term exam holds a weight of 10 points, and in the final exam students will encounter six potential questions, but they are only required to select and respond to four of them, 3 questions carry a value of 10 points, last question 5 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.		
Tentative Schedule		
Date/Day <i>(subject to change if necessary)</i>	Topics	Readings
Week 1 21.09.26	Introduction	Introducing Syllabus and Plan of the Course Discussion of the main concepts.
Week 2 28.09.26	Immanuel Kant	Stanford Encyclopedia https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant/
Week 3 05.10.26	Jeremy Bentham John Stuart Mill	Roberts, P. & Sutch, P. (2012) An Introduction to Political Thought. Edinburgh University Press. <u>Chapter 6, pp.153-181</u> McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 20, pp.432-464</u> Price, A. (2008) Contemporary Thought. Chelsea House. <u>Chapter 1 p. 7-23</u>

Week 4 12.10.26	Alexis de Tocqueville	Yale course materials by Professor Steven Smith https://oyc.yale.edu/political-science/plsc-114 Rosen, M. & Wolff, J. (1999). <i>Political Thought</i> . Oxford University Press. p.109-111, p. 159-161
Week 5 19.10.26	Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 22 p. 501-524</u>
Week 6 26.10.26	Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 11 p. 198-215</u>
Week 7 02.11.26	Vilfredo Pareto Max Weber	Stanford Encyclopedia https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/weber/ McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 27 pp. 616–636</u>
Week 8 09.11.26	Midterm Exam	TBA
Week 9 16.11.26	Vladimir Lenin	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. Chapter 25, pp. 565–579
Week 10 23.11.26	Antonio Gramsci	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. Chapter 27, pp. 616–636
Week 11 30.11.26	Hannah Arendt	https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2018/08/17/hannah-arendts-political-thought/ https://www.loc.gov/collections/hannah-arendt-papers/articles-and-essays/totalitarianism-the-inversion-of-politics/ https://cheirif.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/hannah-arendt-the-origins-of-totalitarianism-meridian-1962.pdf https://monoskop.org/images/b/bf/Arendt_Hannah_On_Revolution_1990.pdf
Week 12 07.12.26	John Rawls	https://giuseppicapograssi.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/rawls99.pdf
Week 13 14.12.26	Mahatma Gandhi Ali Shariati – Islam and revolution.	https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/63893/1/Blokk-1.pdf https://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/gandhian-political-theory.php
Week 14 21.12.26	Gustave Le Bon Carl Schmitt	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 28, pp. 637–653</u> “The Concept of the Political” in Carl Schmitt, <i>The Concept of the Political</i> , Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007, pp. 19-79.
Week 15 28.12.26	Concluding Remarks and Discussion	Preparation for the exam
	Final exam	TBA

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.