

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	Tarlan Orucova
	E-mail:	torucova@khazar.org
	Classroom/hours	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)
	Office hours	By appointment
Language	English	
Compulsory/Elective	Compulsory	
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. Handbook of Political Theory (2004) Ed. Gerald F. Gaus & Chandran Kukathas Sage Publications. 4. Cambridge History of Political thought (2008) Ed.J.H. Burnes. Cambridge University Press. 5. Price, A. (2008) Contemporary Thought. Chelsea House. 6. Whelan, F. (2015) The Political Thought of Hume and His Contemporaries. Routledge. <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 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	By the end of the course, students will be able to: 1. Examine key political thinkers from the Enlightenment to contemporary times (Kant, Hegel, Marx, Weber, Gramsci, Arendt, Rawls, Schmitt, etc.). 2. Compare and contrast concepts of justice, freedom, equality, and sovereignty in Western and Eastern political traditions. 3. Analyze the role of modern non-Western thinkers (Gandhi, Shariati) in shaping global debates on democracy, colonialism, and liberation. 4. Critically evaluate the continuing relevance of classical and modern political thought in today's world	

Evaluation	Methods	Date/deadlines	Percentage (%)
	Midterm evaluation	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30
	Quiz	17.10.26 05.12.26 19.12.26	20
	Active participation at the seminars	During the semester	10
	Attendance	During the semester	10
	Final exam	To be determined by the Dean's Office	30
	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 and quiz: Attendance will account for 5% of the final grade. Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Attendance will be recorded throughout the semester, and students who attend regularly will receive the corresponding points. Full-time students are expected to attend all scheduled classes unless prevented by illness or another valid reason approved by the instructor. Requests for excused absences must be submitted in advance; otherwise, the absence will be treated as unapproved. To remain eligible for examinations, students may not exceed 25% of unapproved absences in class hours. Should this threshold be crossed, the student may be permitted to sit for the examinations only with the explicit approval of the School Dean. Repeated unapproved absences or a continued lack of participation may result in administrative withdrawal from the course. Three quizzes will be administered during the semester. The first quiz will be worth 15 points and will include multiple-choice questions as well as 1–2 open-ended questions. The open-ended questions are intended to familiarize students with the type of analytical and written responses expected in the final examination. The second and third quizzes will be worth 5 points respectively and will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the key concepts and materials discussed in class. Together, the two quizzes will account for 25% of the final grade. Use of Devices: Mobile phones, tablets, and laptops are permitted only for course-related purposes. Texting, browsing, or gaming is strictly prohibited. Attention: Sleeping, side conversations, or other distractions during class are not acceptable.		

Respect: Students must listen actively and engage respectfully with the instructor and classmates. Penalties for Rule Violations - First instance: verbal warning. - Repeated violations: deduction of points from seminar participation or quiz grades, depending on the nature of the violation. 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 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		
Date/Day <i>(subject to change if necessary)</i>	Topics	Readings
Week 1 19.09.26	Introduction	Introducing Syllabus and Plan of the Course Discussion of the main concepts.

Week 2 26.09.26	Immanuel Kant	Stanford Encyclopedia https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant/
Week 3 03.10.26	Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill	Roberts, P. & Sutch, P. (2012) An Introduction to Political Thought. Edinburgh University Press. <u>Chapter 6</u> McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 20</u> . Price, A. (2008) Contemporary Thought. Chelsea House. <u>Chapter 1</u>
Week 4 10.10.26	Alexis de Tocqueville	Yale course materials by Professor Steven Smith https://oyc.yale.edu/political-science/plsc-114
Week 5 17.10.26	Georg Wilhelm Fridrix Hegel	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 22</u> . Quiz 1
Week 6 24.10.26	Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 23</u>
Week 7 31.10.26	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</u>
Week 8 07.11.26	Victory Day	
Week 9 14.11.26	MIDTERM EXAM	
Week 10 21.11.26	Antonio Gramsci	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. Chapter 27
Week 11 28.11.26	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_R_evolution_1990.pdf
Week 12 05.12.26	John Rawls	https://giuseppicapograssi.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/rawls99.pdf Quiz 2
Week 13 12.12.26	Mahatma Gandhi Ali Shariati – Islam and revolution.	https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/63893/1/Block-1.pdf https://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/gandhian-political-theory.php

Week 14 19.12.26	Gustave Le Bon Carl Schmitt	McJelland, J. (2005) A History of Western Political Thought. Routledge. <u>Chapter 28</u> “The Concept of the Political” in Carl Schmitt, The Concept of the Political, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2007, pp. 19-79. Quiz 3
Week 15 26.12.26	Concluding Remarks and Discussion	Preparation for the exam

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.