

Course discipline/number/title: PHIL 2112: Political Philosophy

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3 lecture
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
4. Other requirements: None
5. MnTC Goals (if any): Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy, Goal 7a/Human Diversity

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course surveys political concepts, theories, and issues, with particular attention to how different political frameworks address questions of power, identity, and inequality. It examines theoretical support for political ideologies, power structures and social institutions, and moral concepts including rights, obligation, equality, justice, punishment, property, liberty, and authority. The course explores how these concepts intersect with race, gender, class, and other aspects of identity in the United States. College level reading and writing is recommended.

C. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): December, 2024

D. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. Foundational Moral Theories
2. Major Political Theories
 - a) Anarchism
 - b) Libertarianism
 - c) Communism and Socialism
 - d) Authoritarianism
 - e) Communitarianism
 - f) Liberal Egalitarianism
 - g) Feminism
3. One or More Topics from the Following Areas:
 - a) Forms of Government
 - b) Justice
 - c) Rights/Liberty Obligations
 - d) Equality/Egalitarianism
 - e) Social Contract
 - f) Identity/Community
 - g) Authority
 - h) Power

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

1. Identify the major political theories and explain their grounding in moral theory.
2. Identify major forms of government.
3. Identify conclusions and premises in social and political arguments.
4. Apply political philosophical concepts and arguments to concrete situations.
5. Formulate their own positions on social and political issues and justify them in an argument.
6. Analyze how political theories address questions of diversity, power, and inequality 7. Evaluate political frameworks' treatment of marginalized groups

F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:

1. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
2. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
3. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 7a/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:

1. Understand the development of and the and the changing meanings of group identifies in the United States' history and culture.

- F. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued. . .
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
 3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
- G. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING: Methods may include but are not limited to:
1. Essays
 2. Quizzes
 3. Journals
 4. Class Participation
 5. Service-Learning Projects
- H. RCTC CORE OUTCOME(S). This course contributes to meeting the following RCTC Core Outcome(s):
Global Awareness and Diversity. Students will demonstrate an understanding of and respect for human diversity through their words and actions.
- I. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None