The American University of Rome
International Relations and Global Politics Program
Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	From Oppression to Justice: Contemporary Political Theory
Course Number:	POL 302
Credits & hours:	3 credits
Pre/Co-Requisites:	A lower-level Political Science course

Course description

This course is an examination of leading works in political theory of the late 19th and the 20th centuries. Central themes cover attacks on the reaffirmation of liberal democratic thought, problems or order and violence, social and political revolutions and democratic processes. Readings are drawn from original works in political theory by Arendt, Dewey, Hayek, Lenin, Marx and Sorel.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- It is necessary for the students to own a copy of: Paul Schumaker; From Ideologies to Public Philosophies: An Introduction to Political Theory, 2008, Wiley-Blackwell; ISBN: 978-1-4051-6835-9

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. possess a framework of knowledge in the fields of contemporary political theory and , international relations; with the particular ability to distinguish key issues in political discourse.
2. analyze contemporary issues and case studies on politics by drawing on primary philosophical sources and on available scholarship and developing one's own argument on the matter.
3. possess methodological skills relevant to penetrating reading of original sources, gathering information and opinions from secondary sources, formulating clear arguments and coherent communication of findings in oral presentations and written work.
4. use the Roman, Italian and multicultural learning experience at AUR in order to enhance the ability to apply the skills in other contexts.

Course Learning Activities

- Careful study of course reading, active and thoughtful participation in class discussion, and attention to class lectures will combine to build a framework of knowledge of key concepts in contemporary political theory and the ability to distinguish philosophical concepts and assess their original cultural contexts.

- Class discussion and a graded oral presentation will offer the opportunity to consider comparative and ethical contexts, as well as how the philosophical principles being studied can be used to understand present issues and controversies.
- Class discussion will guide students in developing the skills of penetrating reading of original sources, formulating clear arguments and communicating them coherently; and the oral presentation and a graded research paper, with preliminary phases (including an abstract and outline), will offer the opportunity to refine and demonstrate these skills, as well as to explore the effective use of secondary sources.
- Class discussion, the oral presentation and research paper present occasions for considering ideas and information from new perspectives, showing us how we benefit from the multi-cultural experience of learning at AUR, and helping us to see across the invisible but strong barriers of cultural and historical divides.

Assessment tools

Class participation   10%
Oral Presentation   15%
Mid-term examination   25%
Independent Research Paper   25%
Final Examination   25%

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1	Introduction. Course aim and structure. Political Ideologies, Political Theory and Public Philosophies. Pluralism.	Paul Schumaker; *From Ideologies to Public Philosophies: An Introduction to Political Theory,* 2008; (MARKED AS 'FIPP'), Ch.I, pp. 1-20
	The Reason of State. Machiavelli. The Age of Absolutism.	Quentin Skinner, The State, in *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, 2nd Edition, by Robert E. Goodin (Editor), Philip Pettit (Editor) 2005, Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 3-25
Week 2	Classical Liberalism, Traditional Conservatism, Anarchism, Marxism.	FIPP Ch. 2. 'Voices from the Major Ideologies of the Nineteenth Century'; pp.27-46
	Hobbes. Locke. The State of Nature.	Selections from: Hobbes, The Leviathan; Locke, Second Treatise on Government
Week 3	Communism, Fascism and Nazism. Contemporary Liberalism, Contemporary Conservatism;	FIPP, Ch. 3. 'Prominent Totalitarian and Pluralist Voices of the Twentieth Century'; pp. 46-74
	The Enlightenment. Rousseau. The American Revolution. The French Revolution.	Selections from: Rousseau, Discourse on Inequality; US Declaration of Independence (1776); Declaration of the Right of Man and of the Citizen (1789)
Week 4	the Radical and Extreme Left, the Radical and Extreme Right	FIPP, Ch. 4 'Radical and Extreme Voices in Contemporary Politics', pp.74-101
	Political Economy. Adam Smith. Edmund Burke. Utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham. John Stuart Mill	Selections from: Smith, Burke, Mill
Week 5	Philosophical Assumptions: their importance as foundations for Political Principles (I)	FIPP, Selections from Chs. 5 'Questions of Ontology' (pp.107-130) and 6 'Questions of Human Nature' (pp.133-153)
	Early Socialists. Karl Marx. Anarchism.	Selections from: Marx, Herzen, Goldman.
Week 6	Philosophical Assumptions: their importance as foundations for Political Principles (II)	FIPP, Selections from Ch. 7 'Questions of Society' (pp.155-172) and Ch. 8 'Questions of Epistemology' (pp. 175-199)
	Lenin. The Russian Revolution. Communism	Selections from: Hobsbawm, The Short 20th Century
Week 7	General review for the exam	
	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	

Week 8	Political Issues and Practices: Questions of Community	FIPP, Ch. 9 pp. 207-231
	Fascism and Nazism	S. Stowers, *The Concepts of 'Religion', 'Political Religion' and the Study of Nazism;* Journal of Contemporary History, Vol. 42, No. 1 (Jan., 2007), pp. 9-24
Week 9	Political Issues and Practices: Questions of Citizenship Class Presentations	FIPP, Ch. 10 pp. 232-256
	Post-WW2 order. The welfare state. The Cold War. 1968	TBA
Week 10	Political Issues and Practices: Political Practices: Questions of Structure Class Presentations	FIPP, Ch. 11 pp. 260-286
	1989: The End of History?	The Collapse of Communism, in Contemporary Political Ideologies, R.C. Macridis, M. Hullilung (eds.). pp. 125-141
Week 11	Political Issues and Practices: Political Practices: Questions of Rulers and Authority Class Presentations	FIPP, Chs. 12 and 13 pp. 289-341
	Globalization and Human Rights in the 21st century (I)	Amartya Sen, Equality of What?, in *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, 2005, pp. 473-484
Week 12	Political Issues and Practices: Political Practices: Questions of Justice Class Presentations	FIPP, Ch. 14; pp.343-376; Brian Barry; Humanity and Justice in Global Perspective, in *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, 2005, pp. 721-735
	Globalization and Human Rights in the 21st century (II)	Robert O. Keohane Global Governance and Democratic Accountability, in *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, 2005, pp. 697-719
Week 13	Political Issues and Practices: Questions of Change Class Presentations	FIPP, Ch. 15; pp.377-405
	General Class discussion Review for the exam	TBA
Week 14	**FINAL EXAMINATION**	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences
Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences
Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

• The Model United Nations (MUN);
• Permit to Stay,
• SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
• Religious Holidays
  The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays)
  Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average
A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades
Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
Grades not computed into the grade point average are:			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		