

SYLLABUS 2021

Course Code / Name	CIR209 History of Political Thought
Course Date	
Instructor	Abdullah Muhsin YILDIZ, Ph.D.
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Office Hours	

Aim of the Course

One semester course designed to

- 1) introduce students to a wide range of some of the most important issues in the political thought,
- 2) give students a basic knowledge in the complex philosophical and technical concepts that cover the analysis of politics.
- Requirements: Attendance, participation, applicable homeworks, midterm exam, final exam

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand historical evolution of the political thought,
- Understand the most important issues in the political thought,
- Examine central concepts in the political theory,
- Compare political ideas of some of key philosophers,
- Discuss major texts in the history of political thought.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Topic	
1	Introduction: The Nature of Political Thought	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 1-20.
2	Plato: Is There a Universal Moral Order?	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 23-45.
3	Aristotle: Is Politics Natural?	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 46-66.
4	Medieval Political Philosophy: Augustine and Aquinas	Oakeshott, 2006: 323-362.
5	Machiavelli and the Beginning of the New Ages	Sabine, 1962: 311-331.
6	Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau: Liberty and Human Nature	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 69-101.
7	Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau II: The Social Contract and the Artificiality of the State	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 103-124.
8	MID-TERM EXAM	
9	Owen and Marx: Socialism and the Artificiality of Man	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 125-150.
10	Bentham: Utilitarianism and Rights	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 153-180.
11	Rawls, Cohen, Nozick and Walzer: Distributive Justice	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 181-208.
12	Rawls II, Kymlicka and Parekh: Liberalism and the Challenge of Multiculturalism	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 209-237.
13	The Internationalization of Political Thought	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 241-272.
14	Burke and Oakeshott, Conservatism: Reason vs Tradition	Roberts and Sutch, 2012: 273-298.
	FINAL EXAM	

Evaluation Methods and Tools

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Examinations will cover materials presented in the class such as classroom discussions, assignments, group projects, case studies, lectures, Power Point presentations, student experiences/ responses, Additional information provided and mentioned by the instructor during the courses can also be asked in examinations.

Unless announced otherwise, there will be a Midterm Exam, and a Final Exam. The grading will be:

- Midterm: %40
- Final Exam: %60

Course Materials

- Teaching procedures for this course will basically include Power Point presentations, exercises, case studies, class discussions, reading assignments and examinations.
- Power Point presentations in soft form will be given to students.
- Students are strongly advised to take notes during the course.

Main Textbooks:

George H. Sabine, A History of Political Theory (Fourth Edition), Thomas L. Thorson (Rev.), Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1993.

Peri Roberts and Peter Sutch, An Introduction to Political Thought: A Conceptual Toolkit (Second Edition), Edinburgh University Press, 2012.

Michael Oakeshott, Lectures in the History of Political Thought, Terry Nardin and Luke O'Sullivan (Ed.), Exeter: Imprint Academic, 2006.

Recommended Readings:

Platon, Devlet [Republic], Sabahattin Eyüboğlu ve M. Ali Cimcoz (Çev.), İş Bankası Kültür Yayınları.

Niccolo Machiavelli, Prens [The Prince], Rekin Teksoy (Çev.), Oğlak Yayıncılık, 1999.

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Semih Lim (Çev.), Yapı Kredi Yayınları.

Edmund Burke, Fransa'daki Devrim Üzerine Düşünceler [Thoughts on the Cause of Present Discontents], Okan Arslan (Çev.), Kadim.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, İnsanlar Arasındaki Eşitsizliğin Kaynağı ve Temelleri Hakkında Nutuk [Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men], Atakan Altınörs (Çev.), Bilge Kültür Sanat.

Method

The instructor may use studies, lectures, questions and exercises from textbooks and articles. The course is taught in English.

Class Participation

- Students will improve their learning process by asking questions to better understand the concepts.
- Brainstorming, discussing with the instructor and classmates as a part of class participation are also ideal for effective learning. By the help of these activities, students will have a much better grasp of theories, principles and topics.

Attendance Procedures

- According to regulations, course attendance is obligatory. Students have to attend 70% of theoretical courses, 80% of practice, laboratory, workshop and studio works.
- Attendance is a significant and serious indicator of success in the course. Students are responsible for arriving class on time, following the flow of courses carefully and remaining in the class until the end of session.
- Course contents are tightly related, and sessions continue progressively. Thus, missing courses will negatively affect the overall achievement of students.

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Note: In case you miss a class, please contact your instructor via e-mail and learn the contents mentioned in class. Also check if you have any assignments due for the History of Political Thought course. Even if you miss a class because of unexpected and involuntary reasons, make sure to cover the topics and catch up with your classmates. Late assignments are not accepted in general. The instructor will only accept late assignments if you have a special case.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstance and no excuse will be accepted. If you ever use a source, cite it properly as seen above. Those quotation marks make a huge difference. Cheating (in Turkish “aldatmak”, “sahtekarlık”, “hile”) known as “kopya” is a serious and punishable act. We strongly recommend that you keep your benign reputation as IR student.

Course Adjustments and Changes

The course syllabus is an overall guide for the History of Political Thought class. Instructor reserves the right to make periodic and specific changes-adjustments to the syllabus, which can cover assignments, group projects, case studies, schedule, examinations, etc.