

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Political Theory

Information :

Course Code : PSC 300

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Science

Instructor Information :

| Title | Name | Office hours |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Lecturer | Ahmed Hatem Ahmed Mohamed Megahed | 3 |
| Teaching Assistant | Nada Youssef Abbas Amin | |

Area Of Study :

This course relates political ideas to political realities through effective use of examples and cases studies making theory lively, contentious and relevant. A wide range of pedagogical features helps to clarify, extend and apply students' understanding of the fundamental ideologies and concepts. This is comprised of:

- Case studies demonstrate how political ideas, concepts and issues manifest in the real world.
- Focus boxes encourage students to appreciate alternative viewpoints.
- A range of thought provoking photographs challenge students to examine concepts from a different angle.

Course Goals:

- Define, compare and interpret the relevant political arguments and conceptual/thematic framework covered in the course.
- Create, criticize, defend and communicate strong arguments both verbally and in written form.
- Be Self-Reflective: Students should be able to continuously reflect and reassess the assumptions underlying their own positions and interpretations.

Description :

This course treats the evolution of the main political concepts such as power, state, nation, sovereignty, equality, freedom, democracy, justice and citizenship. It presents the most important trends of thought and debates which affect political theory and theories of international relations represented in many ideologies such as Liberalism, Marxism, Islamism, Utilitarianism, Functionalism, Behaviorism, Constructivism and Realism. It also analyzes many current issues such as multiculturalism, theories of development, integration and political fragmentation.

Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Identify both theoretically and practically all values and their beneficial consequences. |
| 2 - | Recognize the intellectual and political traditions from which each author draws in his/her political theory and thereby develop a clearer perspective on contemporary political events occurring internationally. |

b. Intellectual Skills: :

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Demonstrate an understanding of political concepts, theories and empirical findings in Egyptian politics, comparative politics, and international relations. |
| 2 - | Develop a familiarity with the historical context in which each of theorists that we study wrote their works. |

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

| | |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Interpret the content and ambiguities of the political thought of the philosophers and thinkers we discuss, as expressed in the primary and secondary sources we read, as well as the contradictions, differences, and overlap between ideas expressed by each theorist. |
| 2 - | Illustrate the primary principles of capitalism, socialism, communism, egalitarianism, utilitarianism, social contract theory, liberalism, conservatism, neo-liberalism, neo-conservatism, libertarianism, fascism, anarchy, rational choice theory, and multiculturalism. |

d. General and Transferable Skills: :

| | |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Describe the challenges that modern leaders face in framing political debate and public policy. |
| 2 - | Assess the impact that various political movements have had on law, economics, international relations, and society. |

Course Topic And Contents :

| Topic | No. of hours | Lecture | Tutorial / Practical |
|--|--------------|---------|----------------------|
| Introduction: Overview of the Course Requirements & Syllabus, Introduction to Political Theory, What is the difference between Political Theory, Political Thought and Political Philosophy? | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| How to write a theoretical research paper | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Classical Ideas: The State- Freedom- Equality- Justice- Democracy- Citizenship | 25 | 5 | 5 |
| Mid Term Exam | | 1 | |
| Classical Ideologies: Liberalism- Fundamentalism | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| Contemporary Ideologies: Multiculturalism- Human Rights- Civil Disobedience- Global Justice | 20 | 4 | 4 |
| Papers Presentation | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Final Exam | | 1 | |

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

| |
|------------------------------------|
| Data show and computer in lectures |
| Demonstration videos |
| Group discussion |
| Research Paper |

Course Assessment :

| Methods of assessment | Relative weight % | Week No | Assess What |
|---|-------------------|---------|---|
| Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper) D | 30.00 | | To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills. |
| Final Exam | 40.00 | 15 | To assess knowledge and intellectual skills. |
| Midterm Exam(s) | 30.00 | 8 | To assess professional skills. |

Periodicals :

Thomas Nagel, The Problem of Global Justice, Philosophy & Public Affairs, Vol. 33, Issue 2, 2005 (113-147).