



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Modern Political Thought - 56120

Last update 01-08-2021

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Nicole Hochner

Coordinator Email: nicole.hochner@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: by email

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yiftah Elazar

Course/Module description:

The course *Introduction to Modern Political Thought* is an undergraduate compulsory lecture in Political Science. The course is based on the assumption that the ideas that emerged during the Modern period shape our political and democratic world of today. A good acquaintance with major thinkers in political philosophy will allow students to better estimate and understand the specific contribution of each thinker and to know the basic concepts and the language that allow us to speak about our social, moral and political life. However, the course is not only designed to go over canonical texts and figures, it is also an opportunity to experience the analysis and interpretation of texts and to dialogue with past political treatises and judge how they are useful as tools of thought.

Course/Module aims:

The goals of the course are to investigate and analyze the major ideas of political philosophy in the modern era and understand the historical and philosophical foundations of our modern democratic world.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Basic knowledge on canonical figures of modern political thought
Basic historical contextualization of philosophical and political ideas
Reading skills of political and philosophical texts
Analysis and interpretation of political and philosophical texts
Exploration of methodological issues and the question of interpretation
Developing Civic Consciousness.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures as well as written assignments and exercises.

Course/Module Content:

This is only a selection of some of the topics that will be addressed during the course - changes may occur.

Introduction

Thomas Hobbes and the idea of contract
John Locke
Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Montesquieu
The American and French Revolutions and its opponents
Alexis de Tocqueville
Karl Marx
J. S. Mill
ideologies at the end of the 19th century

Required Reading:

a detailed list will be distributed and posted on the first week of the term

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 55 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 17 %

Assignments 28 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

changes may occur