

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

PROGRAM: MULTIPLE PROGRAMS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)

1. Catalog Description of the Course. *[Include the course prefix, number, full title, and units. Provide a course narrative including prerequisites and corequisites. If any of the following apply, include in the description: Repeatability (May be repeated to a maximum of ___ units); time distribution (Lecture ___ hours, laboratory ___ hours); non-traditional grading system (Graded CR/NC, ABC/NC). Follow accepted catalog format.]*

POLS 301 Political Theory (3)

Three hours lecture/discussion per week.

Political Theory is devoted to assessing the authority, legitimacy, and justification of various kinds of political arrangements How should people live together in society? Is democracy really the best form of government? Can a society “legislate morality”? What do individuals owe their government? What does their government owe them? This course will consider these and related questions through an introductory survey of works by major political philosophers such as Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Mill, and Marx. Ramifications for issues such as freedom of speech, religious liberty, affirmative action, women’s rights, economic inequality, criminal punishment, civil disobedience, and revolution will also be explored.

2. Mode of Instruction.

	Units	Hours per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment
Lecture	3	1	30
Seminar			
Laboratory			
Activity			

3. Justification and Learning Objectives for the Course. (Indicate whether required or elective, and whether it meets University Writing, and/or Language requirements) *[Use as much space as necessary]*

This course is an elective that will count toward the Minor in Political Science. Political Theory is one of the major subfields of Political Science. This course will challenge students to think critically about the fundamental issues of government and politics by exposing them to works by the major figures in Western political thought.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Distinguish systematic normative inquiry from other kinds of inquiry within the discipline of political science.
- Write a clear and coherent expository synopsis of the theory of a major thinker in the history of political thought.
- Identify the most important contributors to modern Western political thought and explain why their contributions are important.
- Explain the central concepts in modern Western political thought.

- Demonstrate the ability to apply abstract theory to concrete problems by using the ideas of political theorists to address contemporary social issues such as affirmative action, pornography and capital punishment.

4. **Is this a General Education Course** **No**
If Yes, indicate GE category:

A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)		
B (Mathematics & Sciences)		
C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages & Cultures)		
D (Social Perspectives)		
E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)		

5. **Course Content in Outline Form.** *[Be as brief as possible, but use as much space as necessary]*

What is philosophy? / What is political theory?

Political Authority

Hobbes

Locke

Rousseau

Mill

Feminist Commentary on Hobbes, Locke and Mill

Machiavelli

Marx

Rawls

Foucault

Issues and Applications

6. **References.** [Provide 3 - 5 references on which this course is based and/or support it.]

Cahn, Steven M.(ed.) (2002). *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy.* (New York: Oxford University Press).

Cohen, Mitchell and Nicole Fermon (eds.) (1996). *Princeton Readings in Political Thought.* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press).

McClelland, J.S. *A History of Western Political Thought.*

In addition, this course will rely on original works of the major political theorists (Hobbes, Locke etc.) listed above.

7. List Faculty Qualified to Teach This Course.

Steve Lefevre

8. Frequency.

a. Projected semesters to be offered: Fall _____ Spring X Summer _____

9. New Resources Required. N/A

10. Consultation.

Attach consultation sheet from all program areas, Library, and others (if necessary)

11. If this new course will alter any degree, credential, certificate, or minor in your program, attach a program modification.

Scott A. Frisch

Proposer of Course

Date