|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Name: Ancient and Medieval political theory** | | |
| **Course Code: PLSC 301** | **Course Type (major)** | **Course Credits: 3** |
| **Class Timings: 12-12:50**  M/W/F | **Section: B** | **Student Meeting Hours/ Office Hours:**  10:00- 12:00 H (M/W/F)  Otherwise take an appointment |
| **Instructor Name: Asad ur Rehman** | | |
| **A Note from the Instructor:**  All students are expected to attend the lectures and come prepared for the class. The designated readings for next lecture will always be provided before the next class. It is therefore binding to read them to have a better discussion in class. All students are also expected to assign a separate notebook or section of notebook for note taking. If you find any difficulty related to course materials, class participation or general comprehension please feel free to discuss. Brining such issues to notice close to finals will not be entertained. | | |
| **Instructor Contact Details**  Email: asadrahman@fccollege.edu.pk  Office Hours (face to face and/ or online): **10:00- 12:00 H (MWF)**  Guidelines for contacting instructor: Please use email address for communication | | |
| **Course Description**:  This course will introduce students with the emergence and consolidation of ideas about politics, political behaviour, law, and government. This course will keep itself limited to the Western philosophical tradition and do not include rich philosophical traditions i.e., African, Amerindian, Hindustani, Chinese and other modes of thought that enriched human thought. However, the Western philosophy is not limited to the Greco-Roman and Judo-Christian traditions but includes the rich Arabo-Islamic tradition of political thought.  The course will start from the pre-Socratic period and show how the emergence of new forms of political collectives, city states, gave birth to the discussions on politics, law and government. The two disciples of Socrates then receive much of the attention and trail of Socrates will be discussed as the political act of its times and what it meant then and now. Plato’s republic and Aristotle’s politics and constitution of Athens will guide the students through the period of the consolidation of politics as a distinct mode of thought and informed action.  A short introduction of the succeeding Greek schools will be provided but focus will shift more to roman thinkers like Cicero and Marcus Aurelius who grappled with political demands of the Roman republic turning Empire. Latter this module course will introduce thinkers and ideas of thinkers like Farabi, Ghazali and Ibn-Rushd to show the relevance of Platonic and Aristotelian thoughts in both christian and Muslim worlds.  Last module will introduce to late medieval and early modern thinkers coming from religious (Thomas Aquinas) and secular (Machiavelli) traditions. | | |
| **Main Mode of Instruction:**  ***Class lectures*** | | |
| **Course Objectives or** [**Student Learning Outcomes**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1me9vpl8iKR_zNX9gIODm7gkVFY9VkuSKpUJe1VyI57M/edit) **(SLOs)**   * To introduce students with the subject of political philosophy. * To introduce students with ideas of Leading thinkers of Medieval and Ancient period. * To develop critical faculty in students to evaluate answers provided by these thinkers and their relevance to contemporary political challenges and problems. | | |

|  |
| --- |
| **Reference Books**  1) Sabine, G. H., & Thorson, T. L. (2018). *A history of political theory*. Oxford and IBH Publishing (Book 1)  2) Ryan, A. (2012). *On politics: A history of political thought: from Herodotus to the present*. WW Norton & Company.  3) Crone, P. (2014). *Medieval Islamic political thought*. Edinburgh University Press.  **Supplementary Materials**   * The Republic, Plato * The Politics, Aristotle * The history of Western Thought, Bertrand Russell |

**Course Content, Learning Material & Activities Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Module I** | **Key ideas of Philosophy and history** |
| Week-1 The Mythopoetic Tradition | Introduction to the course and students. |
| Week-2 The city states and pre-Socratics | The Birth of Political Philosophy, Trial of Socrates |
| Week-3 | The ideal Republic and idea of Justice— Plato  Chapter 1-Book 2 |
| Week-4 | The types of regimes and ends of politics — Aristotle  Chapter 2 book 2 |
| **Module II — Post-Socratic and Greco-Roman and Islamic Thinkers** | |
| Week-5 | The post-Socratic Schools— Epicureans and Stoics |
| Week 6 | Cynics & Skeptics |
| Week 7 |  |
| Week 8 | Midterm |
| Week -9 | Cicero and Marcus Aurelius |
| Week -10 | St. Augustine and the city of God |
| Week-11 | The community and Belief in Islamic Tradition |
| Week-12 | Ghazali and Ibn- Rushid’s Political theories |
| **Module III The Late Medieval and Early Modern Ideas** | |
| Week-13 | Thomas Aquinas— The coming back of Aristole and Debate of Good regime |
| Week 14 | Political Realism of Machiavelli |
| Week 15 | Revision and Quizzes |
| Week 16 | Final Exam |

**Course Requirements:**

The breakup is as follows:

**Class Participation and Attendance 20**%

**Quizzes:**  **10 %**

**Midterm exam: 20 %**

**Final term exam: 30** %

**Term paper and Presentation 20 %**

**TOTAL 100%**

### **During first three weeks students will submit the topics of their choice. In next three weeks they will work and then start presenting their work each week until the end of semester. Before the end of 15h week the final term paper will be due. The topics should be innovative and could come from following domains**

* Comparative analysis of philosophical schools or thinkers
* Critical Analysis of any single thinker
* Application of theories and ideas of Ancient and medieval thinkers on modern day political issues

**Attendance Policy:**

*Attendance will be taken regularly*