

**School:** Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

## Introduction To Political Theory

### Lecturer:

Prof. Alberto Spektorowski [aspektorowski@idc.ac.il](mailto:aspektorowski@idc.ac.il)

### Tutors:

Mr. Alexander Jakob Klein [alexanderjacob.klein@post.idc.ac.il](mailto:alexanderjacob.klein@post.idc.ac.il)

### Teaching Assistant:

Mr. Alexander Jakob Klein [alexanderjacob.klein@post.idc.ac.il](mailto:alexanderjacob.klein@post.idc.ac.il)

---

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
4026	Lecture	3	4

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Exam	212402601	English

---

## Course Description

The course deals with the historical and intellectual development of central political ideas and theories. The aim of the course is to focus on the interrelationship between political theory and normative questions, such as: Who should govern? Why should I obey the state? What are the limits of my liberty? Are the citizens equal?

---

## Course Goals

Each historical period will be represented by one or several political thinkers (see bibliography). We will try to understand what the political philosophers said about political and ethical issues, how they developed their ideas and theories and in which historical and intellectual context they worked. The students will be asked to draw comparisons between the political thinkers.

---

## Grading

The paper is weighted as 20% and the final exam is weighted at 80% of the final grade.

During the semester, students are asked to submit one paper.

### Written assignments

The midterm paper will be based in Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau

### Additional regulation

Students who have to retake the course are exempted from attendance, yet they have to submit a new paper (see above).

---

## Lecturer Office Hours

E-mail: [albertos@tau.ac.il](mailto:albertos@tau.ac.il)

Office hours: by appointment



## Tutor Office Hours

Email: Alexander@ajklein.eu

Office hours: by appointment

---



## Additional Notes

### Timetable:

**1<sup>st</sup> lesson:** Introduction: What is political thought? Introduction to Socrates and Plato

**2<sup>nd</sup> lesson:** Plato and Aristotle

**3<sup>rd</sup> lesson:** Thomas Aquinas (**Invited Professor, Daniel Schwartz**)

**4<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Niccolò Machiavelli

**5<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Thomas Hobbes and John Locke

**6<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Jean-Jacques Rousseau and explanations on the second paper

(topics of the second paper: Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau)

**Explanation of mid term paper.**

**7<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Edmund Burke and John Stuart Mill

**8<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Emanuel Kant

**9<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Hegel and Karl Marx

**10<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Western Marxism and the Frankfurt School

**11<sup>th</sup> lesson:** John Rawls

**12<sup>th</sup> lesson:** Conclusions

### Recitation Timetable:

**1<sup>st</sup> Recitation:** Plato and Aristotle (After the 2nd lesson)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Recitation:** Aquinas & Machiavelli (After the 4th lesson)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Recitation:** The Social Contract + Insights into the Midterm (After the 6th lesson)

**4<sup>th</sup> Recitation:** Liberalism, Conservatism, and the Enlightenment (After the 8th lesson)

**5<sup>th</sup> Recitation:** Marxism (After the 10th lesson)

**6<sup>th</sup> Recitation:** Rawls, Conclusion, and Exam Prep (After the 11th/12th lesson - depending on the group)

---



## Reading List

### **Plato:** *The Republic*

- Characters in the Dialogue
- Book III (Part IV), Guardians and Auxiliaries, pp. 112-129
- Book IV (Part V), Justice in the State and Individual, pp. 130-139, pp. 149-154
- Book VI (Part VII), The Simile of the Ship, pp. 221-223; The Simile of the Cave, pp. 240-248

### **Aristotle:** *The Politics*

- Book I, The Household and the City, pp. 7-19
- Book II, Review of Constitutions, pp. 38-51
- Book III, The Theory of Citizenship and Constitutions, pp. 84-87, pp. 90-101
- Book IV, The Type of Constitution Which Is Most Generally Practicable, pp. 156-160

### **Thomas Aquinas:** *The Summa Theologica*

- Volume I: Question LXXV, Of Man, p. 378; Question LXXXIII, Of Free Choice, pp. 436-438
- Volume II: Question XCI, Of the Various Kinds of Law, pp. 208-211;
- Question XCII, Of the Effects of Law, pp. 213-214; Question XCIV, Of the Natural Law, pp. 220-226; Question XCV, Of Human Law, pp. 226-228

### **Niccolò Machiavelli:** *The Prince*

- Epistle Dedicatory, pp. 3-4; chapt. I, p. 5; chapt. VI, pp. 20-23; chapt. X, pp. 40-41; chapt. XII, pp. 45-49; chapt. XIV, pp. 54-56; chapt. XV, pp. 57-58; chapt. XVII, pp. 61-64; chapt. XVIII, pp. 65-67; chapt. XXV, pp. 91-93

**Thomas Hobbes: *Leviathan***

- Chapt. XI, Of the Difference of Manners, 69-75
- Chapt. XIII, Of the Natural Condition, pp. 86-90
- Chapt. XVII, Common-Wealth, pp. 117-121
- Chapt. XVIII, Of the Rights of Sovereignes, pp. 121-129

**John Locke: *Two Treatises of Government***

- Chapt. II, Of the State of Nature, pp. 269-278
- Chapt. III, Of the State of War, pp. 278-282
- Chapt. IV, Of Slavery, pp. 282-285
- Chapt. V, Of Property, pp. 285-290, pp. 323-326
- Chapt. VIII, Of the Beginning of Political Societies, pp. 330-333
- Chapt. IX, Of the Ends of Political Society and Government, pp. 350-353

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *The Social Contract***

- Book I, pp. 41-54
- Book II, pp. 57-64
- Book III, pp. 82-86
- Book IV, pp. 122-125

**Edmund Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France***

- Pp. 1-8, 29-31, 51-54 and 109-110

**John Stuart Mill: *On Liberty***

- Chapt. 1, Introductory, pp. 59-74
- Chapt. 2, Of the Liberty, pp. 75-79, pp. 96-97, pp. 105-111
- Chapt. 5, Applications, p. 163, pp. 180-183

**Emanuel Kant**

- "What is Enlightenment?"

**Hegel and Karl Marx:**

- Hegel: *Phenomenology of the Spirit*. (Pages to be marked)
- Shlomo Avineri: *Hegel's theory of the modern state* pp. 176-193
- Marx and Engels: *Manifesto of the Communist Party*

**Adorno and Horkheimer:**

- *Dialect of the Enlightenment*. (Pages to be marked)

**John Rawls: *A Theory of Justice***

- Chapt. 1, The Role of Justice, pp. 3-6
- Chapt. 2, The Subject of Justice, pp. 7-11
- Chapt. 3, The Main Idea of the theory of Justice, pp. 11-17
- Chapt. 11, Two Principles of Justice, pp. 60-65
- Chapt. 17, The Tendency to Equality, pp. 100-108
- Chapt. 25, The Rationality of the Parties, pp. 142-143

**\* Recommended:**

**George H. Sabine: *A History of Political Theory***