DIU International University

Political Concepts and Ideologies

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course introduces political theory by focusing on classical ideas (the state, freedom, equality, justice, democracy, citizenship, punishment), classical ideologies (liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, nationalism, fascism), contemporary ideologies (feminism, multiculturalism, ecologism, fundamentalism), and contemporary ideas (human rights, civil disobedience, political violence, global justice). This course introduces the major approaches to political issues that have shaped the modern world, and the ideas that form the currency of political debate.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
• To understand the meaning of basic political concepts.
• To understand basic ideologies and their answers to political questions.
• To identify political questions in modern world.
• To use analytical skills required in the political analyses.
• To express ideas through the study of cases of actual political dilemmas that appear in the world.
• To understand and demonstrate principles of political reasoning.

COURSE PROCEDURES:
1. Class sessions will include various formats: lecture, class discussion and exercises, practical speech experiences. Written assignments, oral and written feedback from students and instructor.

2. The Political Concepts and Ideologies course requires interaction and an audience. Class attendance is essential to meeting the objectives of the course. All students are expected to be present and on time for every class. However, to allow for illness and other unexpected problems, two absences—and only two absences—are allowed without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond two will result in a 1.5% penalty applied to your semester grade. Excuses must be valid and submitted in writing. I will judge their validity.

3. You are expected to complete and submit all assignments on the due date. This especially applies to homework commitments. Homework not presented when scheduled will receive a failing grade for that assignment. Missing assignments or exams will result in a failing grade for the assignment or exam. There will be no make-up tests for scheduled exams without documented proof of illness or other valid reason for absence.

Any proven case of plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with according to university policy with due process being fully preserved.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Assigned readings (600 pages)
Homework assignments (6 take-home exams)
Mid term exam
Final Exam

GRADING SYSTEM: GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING DISTRIBUTION:

Class participation – 20% (min. 12 – max. 20 points)
Homework – 30% (min. 12 – max. 20 points)
Mid Term Exam – 20% (min. 12 – max. 20 points)
Final Exam – 30% (min. 24 – max. 40 points)

FINAL SEMESTER GRADES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

5 (izvrstan) - A (excellent) – (90-100 points). Performance consistently exceeds expectations to an exceptional degree and results demonstrate a very high degree of creativity.
4 (vrlo dobar) - B (very good) – (80-89 points) Above Average. Performance exceeds expected requirements and results are above required norm.

3 (dobar) - C (good) – (70-79 points). Performance fulfills expected requirements and results are what are expected.

2 (dovoljan) - D (satisfactory) – (60-69 points) Below Average. Performance shows need for improvement and results fall short of what is required.

1 (nedovoljan) - F (unsatisfactory) – (0-59 points) Failure. Performance fails to meet minimal expectations.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


COURSE SCHEDULE: 30x90 minute classes
1. Introduction to the course (Readings: Syllabus)

Classical Political Concepts
3. State (11-36)
   Homework 1: take-home exam
4. Freedom (36-58)
5. Equality (58-80)
6. Justice (80-101)
   Homework 2: take-home exam
7. Democracy (101-120)
8. Citizenship (120-144)
9. Punishment (144-167)
10. Midterm Review

Classical Political Ideologies
11. Liberalism (174-195)
12. Conservativism (195-216)
   Homework 3: take-home exam
13. Socialism (216-242)
14. Anarchism (242-264)
   Homework 4: take-home exam
15. Nationalism (264-285)
16. Fascism (285-309)
17. Midterm Review II
18. Midterm Exam
19. Midterm Analysis

Contemporary Political Ideologies
20. Feminism (315-340)
21. Fundamentalism (385-405)
   Homework 5: take-home exam
22. Multiculturalism (340-362)
23. Ecologism (362-385)
24. Human Rights (408-429)
   Homework 6: take-home exam
25. Civil Disobedience (429-451)
26. Political Violence (451-473)
27. Global Justice (473-493)
28. Final Review
29. Final Review II
30. Final Exam