

PS021. Philosophy of Politics

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Title | Philosophy of Politics |
| Unit code | PS021 |
| Credit rating | 15 |
| Level | MA |
| Contact hours | 21 |
| Pre-requisite units | |
| Co-requisite units | Advanced Policy Analysis, International History & Geography, all elective course units |
| School responsible | Moscow School of Social & Economic Science (Faculty of Social Sciences) |
| Member of staff responsible | Dr. Timofey A. Dmitriev, Dr. Greg Yudin, Dr. Alexander F. Filippov |

AIMS

The main purpose of the course unit is to gain an understanding and appreciation of the work of some of the most important and influential political theorists of the 20th and the beginning of 21 century. More specifically, the present course unit aspires to illuminate some characteristic changes that occurred within the framework of the twentieth-century political theory in comparison with the earlier periods of its development and to relate these shifts to the major economic, political, cultural and ideological transformations ushered in the West and the world at large by the previous century. The course unit will focus on the changes in the understanding of political rationality, representation, legitimacy, autonomy and coercion, agency-structure nexus, moral dimension of politics. The waning of some themes crucial to the earlier political thought, like sovereignty, public weal, general will, etc., and the rise of some others, like totalitarianism, mass politics, reduction of democracy to “a method”, ambivalent connections between liberalism, democracy and capitalism, etc., are to be explored and explained in this course unit either.

The purposes in regard with curriculum are:

- To acquaint students with the debate on the key political problems in the twentieth-century political theory
- To deepen students ideas about basic concepts of political theory with particular reference to questions of the interpretation of Modernity, the nature of political thinking and rationality, and of such key concepts as politics, State, power, sovereignty, legitimacy, and democracy
- To develop the ability to analyze and evaluate a complex body of argument and to interpret main theoretical texts

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

Content

1. Emile Durkheim
2. Max Weber
3. Joseph Schumpeter
4. Friedrich von Hayek

5. John Dewey
6. Hannah Arendt
7. Herbert Marcuse

Core Reading

- Arendt H. *On Revolution*. N.Y.: Viking Press, 1965. Ch. 6.
- Arendt H. *The Human Condition*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1958. Chs. 4-10, 24-35, 42-45.
- Dewey J. *Freedom and Culture*. N. Y., 1939. Ch. 1, 2, 5.
- Dewey J. *The Public and Its Problems. An Essay in Political Inquiry*. Chicago: Gateway Books, 1946. Chs. 1, 3, 4, 6.
- Dewey J. *Political Writings*. Ed. D. Morris and I. Shapiro. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co, 1993. P.p. 32-47, 77-88, 158-160, 169-172, 234-245.
- Durkheim E. *Division of Labour, Suicide*. Moscow, 1991 (In Russian)
- Durkheim E. *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals*. L.-N.Y.: Routledge, 1992. Chs. 1-9, 15-18.
- Hayek F.A. "Individualism: True and False". In: Hayek. *Individualism and Economic Order*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1948.
- Hayek F.A. "The Errors of Constructivism"; "Economic Freedom and Representative Government". In: Hayek. *New Studies in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and the History of Ideas*. L.: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978.
- Hayek F.A. *Law, Legislation and Liberty*. Vol. 1, chapters 2, 4; vol. 2, chapter 11; vol. 3, chapters 16, 17, 18, Epilogue. L.: Routledge, 1993.
- Marcuse H. *Negations. Essays in Critical Theory*. L.: Allen Lane, 1968. Chs. 1, 4.
- Schumpeter. "An Economic Interpretation of Our Time: The Lowell Lectures". In: J.A. Schumpeter. *The Economics and Sociology of Capitalism*. Ed. R. Swedberg. Princeton (N.J.): Princeton University Press, 1991 (p.p. 339-345, 358-363).
- Schumpeter J.A. "Social Classes in an Ethnically Homogeneous Environment", In J.A. Schumpeter, *Imperialism and Social Classes*. Ed. P. Sweezy, N.Y.: Augustus M. Kelley, 1989.
- Weber M. *Selected Works*. "Politics as Vocation"; "On the Concept of Sociology and the Meaning of Social Conduct"; "Characteristic Forms of Social Conduct". Moscow, 1990 (In Russian).
- Weber M. *Selections in Translations / Ed. by W.G.Runciman*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978. Pp. 43-64; 226-262 (essays "Classes, Status Groups and Parties"; "The Nature of Charismatic Domination", "Socialism").

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

| Category of outcome | <i>Students should be able to:</i> |
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| Knowledge and understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be aware of the socio-cultural background which informed the major trends in the twentieth-century political theory; - understand the intellectual and socio-critical role of political philosophy vis-a-vis modern (primarily instrumental) social knowledge and the practices of "late capitalism" and (defunct) socialism; - know ideas about basic concepts of political theory of the 20th century such as State, power, sovereignty, legitimacy, and democracy; |
| Intellectual skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use basic concepts of a political theory of the 20th century properly; - be able to critically assess the conceptual and ideological developments in the twentieth-century liberalism, conservatism and neo-marxism; - acquire skills to apply what is useful in the twentieth-century political theory discussed in this course unit to the |

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| | understanding of the Russian political history and, in particular, its post-communist period; |
| Practical skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - resolve problems: identify the features of problem, including aspects of risk and select approaches and solutions; - identify desired communication outcomes; enhance understanding and engagement by academic and professional audiences; - research independently, by identifying and managing library and information resources including online, correctly citing, acknowledging and referencing sources; - undertake effectively independent and self-managed learning; |
| Transferable skills and personal qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effective written and oral communication; - read, write and communicate in English on academic topics; - reflect and write analytically; - engage in scientific discussion and deliver creative and original thought; - find information and use information technology (including e-library resources) - exercise self-reliance skills and develop independent learning ability; - manage time and work to deadlines. |

LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

- Contact hours: lectures (70%) and tutorials (30%).
- Private assignment preparation
- Directed reading (paper and electronic texts)
- Essay writing

ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

| Assessment task | Length | Weighting within unit (if relevant) |
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| Essay | 5000 words | 80% |
| Written Exam | | 20% |

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| Date of current version | 21 Mar., 2011 |
| Approved by Deans' meeting | 05 Apr., 2011 |