**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE NAME/NUMBER</th>
<th>FACULTY/DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>UFV CREDITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POSC 420</td>
<td>POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Seminar in Political Theory**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE**

In this reading-intensive seminar course, students will examine some important modes and substantive domains of inquiry that distinguish the practice of political theory. Students will explore the disputed identity of political theory as a field of inquiry and its location with Political Science; debates about political theory methodologies, drawing on major historical and contemporary thinkers and texts as case studies; and constitutive concept(s) in political theory, such as power, democracy, difference, and citizenship. Together, these overlapping domains of inquiry will illuminate the historical, normative, empirical, analytical, and critical value of political theory.

**PREREQUISITES:** POSC 100 or POSC 120, and six credits of 300-level POSC

**COREQUISITES:** N/A

**PRE or COREQUISITES:** N/A

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**

(a) Replaces: N/A

(b) Cross-listed with: N/A

(c) Cannot take: N/A

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 45

**TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lectures:</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Seminar:</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<th>Laboratory:</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<th>Field experience:</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<th>Student directed learning:</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<th>Other (specify):</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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**Length of course:** N/A

**Hours per day:** N/A

**Maximum enrolment:** 20

**Expected frequency of course offerings:** Every second year

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<th>(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)</th>
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**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)**

| ☒ Yes | ☐ No |

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)**

| ☒ Yes | ☐ No |

**TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:**

| ☒ Yes | ☐ No |

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**Course designer(s):** Rita Kaur Dhamoon

**Department Head:** Hamish Telford

**Supporting area consultation**

**Curriculum Committee chair:** Tetsuomi Anzai

**Dean/Associate VP:** Jacqueline Nolte

**Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval**
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Explain the distinctive elements of political theory as a field of inquiry;
• Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of different methods of analysis that are central to political theory;
• Identify some of the major thinkers and concepts in the field of political theory, and critically assess their contributions;
• Elucidate the links between political theory and political practice.

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)

The course will function through a variety of methods, but will typically include a combination of: lectures, extensive weekly classroom discussion; and films (where available and relevant).

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

☐ Examination(s) ☐ Portfolio assessment ☐ Interview(s)

☒ Other (specify): Methods to be considered on a course by course basis.

☒ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s): This is a course in academic apprenticeship and the knowledge gained in the course cannot be gained outside of the academy.

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS: [Textbook selection varies by instructor. Examples for this course might be:]

The list includes potential required and supplemental readings for a course pack:

• Ian Shapiro, “Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics, or What’s Wrong with Political Science and What to Do About It.” Political Theory Vol. 30, no. 4 (August 2002).
• Michel Foucault, “The Subject and Power,” Critical Inquiry, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Summer, 1982)
Textbooks, References, Materials continued:


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

None.

STUDENT EVALUATION: [An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Two short papers (on methodologies) 30%
Two critical reviews 20%
Research paper 35%
Presentation and participation 15%

COURSE CONTENT: [Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

1. What is Political Theory, and its relationship to Political Science
2. Theorizing the Interpretation of Texts
3. Hermeneutics
4. Deconstruction and Genealogy
5. Comparative Political Theory
6. Critical Theory I: Feminism
7. Critical Theory II: Critical Race Theory and Anti-colonialism
8. Reading historical texts: case study of Karl Marx
9. Multiple interpretations of Marx
10. Theorizing ‘Power’
11. Foucault on Power
12. Power and Difference: Contemporary Debates I
13. Power and Difference: Contemporary Debates II