**OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE (page 1)**

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2012
COURSE REVISED IMPLEMENTATION DATE:
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: May 2018
*(six years after UEC approval)* *(month, year)*

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.
Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department – see course syllabus available from instructor

| POSC 420 | POLITICAL SCIENCE | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| COURSE NAME/NUMBER | FACULTY/DEPARTMENT | UFV CREDITS |

Seminar in Political Theory
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

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** for further credit.

**SERVICE COURSE TO:** *(department/program)*

**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** **45**

STRUCTURE OF HOURS:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Lectures: | **13** | Hrs |
| Seminar: | **32** | Hrs |
| Laboratory: | | Hrs |
| Field experience: | | Hrs |
| Student directed learning: | | Hrs |
| Other (specify): | | Hrs |

TRAINING DAY-BASED INSTRUCTION:
Length of course: **N/A**
Hours per day: **N/A**

**OTHER:**
Maximum enrolment: 20
Expected frequency of course offerings: Every second year
*(every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 |

Course designer(s): **Rita Kaur Dhamoon**
Department Head: **Hamish Telford** Date approved: **April 26, 2012**
Supporting area consultation Date of meeting: **February 24, 2012**
Curriculum Committee chair: **Tetsuomi Anzai** Date approved: **April 13, 2012**
Dean/Associate VP: **Jacqueline Nolte** Date approved: **April 13, 2012**
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval Date of meeting: **May 23, 2012**

**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:

- James Tully, "Political Philosophy as a Critical Activity," *Political Theory* 30: 4 (August 2002).
- Alasdair MacIntyre, "The Indispensability of Political Theory," in D. Miller and L. Siedentop, ed., *The Nature of Political Theory* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983)
- Sheldon Wolin, "Political Philosophy and Philosophy," *Politics and Vision*, chap. 1.
- Wendy Brown, "At the Edge," *Political Theory* Vol. 30, no. 4 (August 2002)
- Isaiah Berlin. 1999. "Does Political Theory Still Exist?" in H. Hardy, ed. *Concepts and Categories: Philosophical Essays by Isaiah Berlin.* London, Penguin Books.
- Bhikhu Parekh. 2000. "Theorizing Political Theory" in Noel O'Sullivan, ed. *Political Theory in Transition*. London and New York: Routledge. Pp 242-259.
- Turner, D. (2006). *This Is Not a Peace Pipe: Towards a Critical Indigenous Philosophy*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Ruth Grant, "Political Theory, Political Science, and Politics," *Political Theory*, 30: 4 (August 2002).
- Archon Fung, "Democratic Theory and Political Science: A Pragmatic Method of Constructive Engagement," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101, no. 3 (2007): 443-458.
- 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).
- Quentin Skinner, "Meaning and Understanding in the History of Ideas," in J. Tully, ed., *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and his Critics* (Princeton UP, 1988), 29-67.
- James Tully, "The Pen is a Mighty Sword: Quentin Skinner's Analysis of Politics," in J. Tully, ed *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and his Critics* (Princeton UP, 1988), 7-28.
- Leo Strauss. 1959. *What is Political Philosophy?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter on "Political Philosophy and History," 56-77.
- Hans-Georg Gadamer. 1981. *Reason in the Age of Science*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. (especially chapters on "Hermeneutics as a Theoretical and Practical Task" and "Hermeneutics as Practical Philosophy").
- Charles Taylor. 1971. "Interpretation and the Science of Man." *The Review of Metaphysics* vol, 25.
- Jacques Derrida. 2002. "Force of Law: The Mystical Foundation of Authority" in Gil Anidjar ed. Acts of Religion. New York: Routlegde.
- Stella Gaon. "Judging Justice: The Strange Responsibility of Deconstruction." *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 30:1 (2004). 97-114.
- Friedrich Nietzsche. 1969. *On the Genealogy of Morals*, transl. Walter Kauffman. New York: Random House. (Selection, especially pp15-54).
- Michel Foucault. 1984. *The Foucault Reader*. New York: Pantheon Books. selections
- Michel Foucault. 1995. *Discipline and Punish*. New York: Vintage Books. selections
- Farah Godrej. 2009. "Towards A Cosmopolitan Political Thought: The Hermeneutics of Interpreting the 'Other". *Polity* vol. 41, pp135-165.
- Broole Ackerly.2005. "Is Liberalism the only way toward Democracy? Confucianism and Democracy" Political Theory 3: 4, 547-576.
- Michel Foucault, "The Subject and Power," *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Summer, 1982)

**Textbooks, References, Materials continued:**


- Deveaux, M. (1994). Feminism and Empowerment: A Critical Reading of Foucault. *Feminist Studies, 20*(2).
- Terence Ball, "New Faces of Power," in *Rethinking Power*, ed. Thomas Wartenberg (SUNY Press, 1992), 14-31.
- Iris Marion Young, "Five Faces of Oppression" *Philosophical Forum*, Vol. 19 (1988)
- Collins, P. H. (1990). *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. Boston: Unwin Hyman.
- Valerie Bryson. 2003. *Feminist Political Theory*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, selections.
- Zack, N. (2000). *Women of Color and Philosophy: A Critical Reader*. Malden, Mass. and Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. selections
- Joyce Green (ed.), *Making Space for Indigenous Feminism* (Halifax: Fernwood Press, 2007), selections.
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, 'Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," *Feminist Review,* 30 (1988).
- Dhamoon, R. K. (2009). Critical Race Perspectives: Towards a Post-Essentialist Form of Social Critique. In S. Hier and B. S. Bolaria (Eds.), *Racism, Identity, and Justice: Dialogue on the Politics of Inequality and Change*. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Fernwood Press.
- Viswanathan, G. (Ed.). (2001). *Power, Politics, and Culture: Interviews with Edward Said*. New York: Vintage Books, Random House.
- Philipose, L. (2007). Decolonizing Political Theory. *Radical Pedagogy*.
- Pitts, J. (2010). "Political Theory of Empire and Imperialism". *Political Theory, 13*, 211-235.
- Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *The Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848).
- Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume One* (London: Penguin, 1976), Part Eight: On So-Called Primitive Accumulation, 873-940.
- Kevin Anderson, "Marx's late Writings on Non-Western and Pre-Capitalist Societies and Gender," *Rethinking Marxism* 14:4 (2002), 84-96.
- Linda Nicholson. 1986. "Feminism and Marx: Integrating Kinship with the Economic" Praxis International 5: 4, pp367-380.
- Coulthard, G. (2007). "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada". *Contemporary Political Theory, 6*(4), 437-460.
- Benhabib, S. (Ed.). (1996). *Democracy and Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Hier, S. P., and Greenberg, J. (Eds.). (2009). *Surveillance: Power, Problems, and Politics*. Vancouver: UBC Press.


**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