

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PPOG 503

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies the most influential political philosophers who substantially influence the Western political and legal thought processes, for better or worse, from ancient Greece, through Western European development and the American Founding era to the modern era.

RATIONALE

This course is a required core course in the Master of Art in Public Policy program. It provides a broad graduate-level introduction to selected philosophers and philosophies that have shaped and continue to shape Western political and legal thought.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Explain the relationship between worldview and political philosophy.
- B. Explain the relationship between one's philosophical presumptions regarding human nature and the development and/or choice of political systems.
- C. Identify significant trends in the history of political thought.
- D. Explain the contribution or impact of selected political philosophers.
- E. Read and compare sources in political philosophy.
- F. Analyze policies and/or governmental actions in light of their philosophical roots.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and include at least 3 references to course readings and at least 1 Scripture reference. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words and include at least 1 reference to course readings and at least 1 Scripture reference. Each reply post must be unique; merely posting the same reply in two places is not sufficient and may be treated as a form of academic misconduct.

D. Short Research Papers (2)

The student will be required to submit 2 Short Research Papers. The papers must be at least 2 pages written in current Turabian format, utilize and cite at least 5 appropriate sources to justify the student’s position and/or conclusions, and must, in all other respects, be in accord with the standards of academic writing.

E. News Article Review

The student will be required to submit a News Article Review. The review must be ½–1-page double spaced. In the review, the student must summarize the article in order to demonstrate comprehension of the content and must identify key elements discussed in the article and relate those elements back to concepts discussed in the course. The review must mention at least 2 of the philosophers from the course and include excerpts from their writings with references to the course text.

F. Research Paper

The student will be required to submit a Research Paper. The paper must be 7–10 pages written in current Turabian format, utilize and cite at least 7–10 appropriate sources in sufficient quantity to justify the student’s position and/or conclusions, and must, in all other respects, be in accord with the standards of academic writing.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Short Research Papers (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
News Article Review	100
Research Paper	200
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739

D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PPOG 503

Textbook: Strauss & Cropsey, *History of Political Philosophy* (1987).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Strauss & Cropsey: Introduction, Plato, Aristotle, Cicero 2 presentations 1 lecture note	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Strauss & Cropsey: St. Augustine, Moses Maimonides, St. Thomas Aquinas 1 presentation 1 lecture note	DB Forum 2	100
3	Strauss & Cropsey: Martin Luther, John Calvin, Richard Hooker 1 presentation 1 lecture note	Research Paper Topic Short Research Paper 1	0 150
4	Strauss & Cropsey: Niccolo Machiavelli, Francis Bacon, Hugo Grotius, Rene Descartes 1 presentation 1 lecture note	News Article Review	100
5	Strauss & Cropsey: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau 1 presentation 1 lecture note	DB Forum 3	100
6	Strauss & Cropsey: William Blackstone, Adam Smith, the Federalists, Alexis De Tocqueville 3 presentations 1 lecture note	Short Research Paper 2	150
7	Strauss & Cropsey: Jeremy Bentham, James Mill, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche 1 presentation 1 lecture note	DB Forum 4	100
8	Strauss & Cropsey: John Dewey 3 presentations 1 lecture note 3 websites	Research Paper	200

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.