

POT: Political Theory Courses

Courses

POT 3103 Law and Politics in Literature
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Discussion of law and politics within history's most prominent literary works. Examination of the rule of law within political life in relation to character and plot development. Exploration in the ways in which literature illustrates the challenges posed by human nature to the just administration of law.

POT 4013 Ancient Masters of Political Thought
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

A survey of several of the seminal works by political theorists of the ancient and medieval period, including Plato, Aristophanes, Xenophon, Aristotle, Cicero, and St. Augustine. Readings will introduce such themes as the classification of regimes, the debate between the poets and the philosophers, the role of the virtues in perpetuation of civic order, the problem of the many and the one, the tension between the philosopher and the city, the problems of justice, the ideas of Nature and human nature, and the status of the gods and/or religion in political life. Graduate course POT 5016 will have additional work. Course only offered Fall semester.

POT 4204 American Political Thought
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Significant American political theorists, schools of thought and their influence on the political system. Offered concurrently with POT 5207; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

POT 4354 Contemporary Political Philosophy
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course explores America's faith in scientific progress with an eye toward the theoretical pursuit of happiness. We like science. But has science actually made us happier? Can it deliver the goods? This course explores this phenomenon through philosophy, film, and literature. Reading Thomas More's *Utopia*, .S. Lewis' *The Abolition of Man*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, and other works, students will explore the American infatuation with scientific progress and the implications for our self-understanding and our shared understanding of the good life. Offered concurrently with POT 5355; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

POT 4601 Modern Masters of Political Thought
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Evaluates ideas about the origin, justification, organization, and performance of government by great thinkers from Machiavelli to the present. Offered concurrently with POT 5602; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

POT 4905 Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)

POT 5016 Seminar in Political Theory
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

A survey of several of the seminal works by political theorists of the ancient and medieval period, including Plato, Aristophanes, Xenophon, Aristotle, Cicero, and St. Augustine. Readings will introduce such themes as the classification of regimes, the debate between the poets and the philosophers, the role of the virtues in perpetuation of civic order, the problem of the many and the one, the tension between the philosopher and the city, the problems of justice, the ideas of Nature and human nature, and the status of the gods and / or religion in political life. Offered Fall semester only.

POT 5207 American Political Thought
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Significant American political theorists and schools of thought; their influence on the political system. Offered concurrently with POT 4204; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

POT 5355 Contemporary Political Philosophy
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

This course explores contemporary political philosophy through the lens of the theoretical pursuit of happiness in a scientific age. This course is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing from philosophy, film, and literature to understand modern man. Reading Thomas More's *Utopia*, .S. Lewis's *The Abolition of Man*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, and other works, students will explore the American infatuation with scientific progress and the implications for our self-understanding and our shared sociopolitical understanding of the good life. Offered concurrently with POT 4354; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

POT 5602 Modern Masters of Political Thought
3 sh (may not be repeated for credit)

Evaluates ideas about the origin, justification, organization, and performance of government by great thinkers from Machiavelli to the present. Offered concurrently with POT 4601; graduate students will be assigned additional work.

POT 6905 Directed Study
1-12 sh (may be repeated indefinitely for credit)