



Introduction to Western Political Thought

Course Code			
Class Times	Mon/Wed/Thur Type A(09:00-12:00)	Classroom	Bldg.16, Rm #339
Equivalent Year Level	1/2/3/4	Course Credit	3

Instructor	Sungwoo PARK (swplato@snu.ac.kr)
Office	Bldg.16, Rm#515
Office Hours	Mon/Wed/Thur, 12:00-13:30

□ Instructor's Profile



Sungwoo Park

Professor, Ph. D.

Department of Political Science and International Relations

He has taught International Political Thought and Global Justice at SNU since 2013, while conducting his research at the crossroads of history of political thought and international relations. Recently he develops his interest in coalescing contrasting origins of political thought, Ancient and Modern as well as East and West. He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago (August 2011-July 2012) and International Christian University in Japan (September 2018-June 2019).

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Chicago

M.A., International Relations, Seoul National University

B.A., International Relations, Seoul National University

Expertise

History of Western Political Thought, International Political Thought,

Recent Works

Leo Strauss in Northeast Asia, coedited with Jun-Hyeok Kwak. Routledge (2019).

"Leo Strauss's Interpretation of the Republic Reconsidered: Limits of Politics in South Korea" in Jun-Hyeok Kwak & Sungwoo Park eds. *Leo Strauss in Northeast Asia* (2019).

"Platonic Rhetoric as a Philosophical Response to Parrhesia" *The Journal of Greco-Roman Studies*, Vol. 58-3 (2019).

"Platonic Political Philosophy and Athenian Empire" *21st Century Political Science Review*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (2018) (in Korean).

"Platonic International Political Thought in Plato's Republic: Is it possible to extend Platonic justice to international realm?" *21st Century Political Science Review*, Vol. 26, No. 1(2016) (in Korean).

"Philosophical Foundation of the Concept of National Interest and Philosophical(Socratic) Pursuit of National Interest in Reading Plato's 'Alcibiades'" *The Korean Journal of International Studies*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (2014) (in Korean)



□ Course Information

Course Description	<p>After the modernization period, Western political thought has been the theoretical foundation of politics in East Asia. All the major political issues such as the justice discourse in politics, the nature of state sovereignty, and the significance of freedom and autonomy in politics, originate from the history of Western political thought.</p> <p>This course will introduce the students to the fundamental concepts and principles of Western political thought. We will read works by the canonical Western political thinkers including Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, and Mill. The goal of this course is not merely to understand the political thinkers as such but to understand the seminal political ideas that are still valid for us. In particular, we will focus on the following remarkable topics in the history of Western political thought: 1) effects and ranges of justice in politics, 2) morality and reality in politics 3) the meaning of sovereignty, 4) the significance of autonomy or self-ruling, 5) freedom of speech and its limits in modern society. Through examining these topics with the guidance of the great political thinkers, students will have a better understanding of our politics, of course, with a critical mind.</p>
Course Evaluation	<p>Attendance 10%, Class participation 30%, Midterm 30%, Final 30%</p> <p>*The class format is a combination of lecture and discussion. So, active class participation is highly encouraged and will be counted in the evaluation</p>
Course Materials	All reading materials will be distributed to the students in the class.
Etc.	This is an introductory course for Western Political Thought. No background knowledge is required. However, it is important for students to read the assigned readings before coming to the class. The assigned readings are relatively small!

□ Course Schedule

Session	Description	Etc
1	Introduction: Western Political Thought: Concepts and Themes	No reading assignment
2	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Ch. 1	
3	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Chs. 2, 3	
4	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Chs. 4, 5	
5	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Chs. 6, 7	
6	Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> , Ch. 1, 2	
7	Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> , Ch. 3, 7	



8	<i>Midterm Take-Home Exam</i>	
9	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , Chs. 4~6, 8, 10, 14~20, 24~26	
10	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chs. 1~5, 12	
11	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chs. 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 29	
12	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on The Origin of Inequality</i>	
13	Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i> , BkI, Chs.1~8. BkII.Chs.1~5.	
14	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chs. 1, 2, 4	
15	<i>Final Take-Home Exam</i>	