Introduction to Western Political Thought in East Asia

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class Times</strong></td>
<td>Mon/Wed/Thu</td>
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<td>Type A(09:00-12:00)</td>
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<td><strong>Equivalent Year Level</strong></td>
<td>1/2/3/4</td>
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<td><strong>Classroom</strong></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td><strong>Course Credit</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
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**Instructor I**  
Sungwoo PARK  
Sessions 1-15(45class yours)  
Office Bld.16 Rm.515  
Email swplato@snu.ac.kr

**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, namely 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**


Course Information

Course Description
In the East Asian states, Western political thought has been the theoretical foundation of politics at least after the modernization period. All the political principles effective in East Asia such as modern state-building based on nationalism, socialist revolution, democratization, constitutionalism, liberalism, etc. originate from the history of Western political thought, although their applications vary according to the temporal and spatial circumstances of each state. This course will examine the origins of Western political thought as the theoretical foundation of East Asian politics and try to understand its variations in each state. In doing so, we will try to examine critically the Eurocentric or West-centric view that the East Asian politics is retarded in comparison with the politics of the developed countries in the West.

Course Evaluation
Attendance 20%, Class participation 20%, Midterm exam 30%
Final exam 30%
Attendance will be important for keeping up with class. Good attendance and active participation will be considered in the evaluation.

Course Materials
A course packet will be made available.

Etc.
This course is an introductory one. The class format is a combination of lecture and discussion. No background knowledge of Western political thought is required. Readings will be relatively small but students are required to read the assigned readings before coming to the class for the discussion.

Course Schedule

Session 1 - Topic: Introduction
No reading assignment

Topic 1. What is Justice? : the Origin of Western Thought and Variations of Justice Discourse in East Asia

Session 2 The Most Original Question Justice in Western Thought

Session 3 Machiavellian Answer to the Question of Justice

Topic 2. What is legitimate relationship between state and individuals: Western Origin of
Social Contract Theories and East Asian Variations

Session 4 Aristotle’s Teleological Answer
Aristotle, Politics, Book 1 (Cambridge edition)

Session 5 Hobbes’s Authoritarian Answer
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Chs. 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 26

Session 6 Locke’s Liberal Answer
John Locke, The Second Treatise, Chs. 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14

Session 7 Rousseau’s Democratic Answer
J. J. Rousseau, Social Contract Bk1 Chs. 6-8, Bk2 Ch. 1-4.

Session 8 Mid-term Exam

Topic III. What is Law? : Western Origin of Rule of Law and East Asian Application

Session 9 Persistent Principle of Rule of Law in Western Thought
Plato, Crito (trans. John M. Cooper)

Session 10 Rule of Law in Contemporary East Asian Politics
Jongryn Mo and David W. Brady, eds. The Rule of Law in South Korea (2010), Introduction, pp.

Topic IV. What is liberal democracy? : Western Origin of liberal democracy and its modified definitions in East Asia

Session 11 Liberalism against Tyranny of Majority
John S. Mill, On Liberty (Hackett edition) Chs. 1, 2, 3
Plato, Republic, Book 10 (parts)

Session 12. Confusianism and Democracy in East Asia

Topic V. How could we achieve (perpetual) peace?

Session 13 Kant’s “Realist” Pacifism
I. Kant, “Perpetual Peace” in Pauline Kleingeld ed. Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History, pp. 67-85

Session 14 Kant continues

Review For the Final Exam

Session 15 Final Exam