Introduction to Western Political Thought

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Class Times</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Equivalent Year Level</th>
<th>Course Credit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon/Wed/Thu 13:00-16:00</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor I</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sungwoo PARK</td>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>Bld.16 Rm.515</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swplato@snu.ac.kr">swplato@snu.ac.kr</a></td>
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</tbody>
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Instructor’s Profile

Sungwoo Park
Professor, Ph. D.
Department of Political Science and International Relations

Sungwoo Park has taught International Political Thought and Global Justice at SNU since 2013. He also taught at Chung-Ang University (2005-2013). He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago (2011-2012).

Education
Ph.D., Political Science, University of Chicago
M.A., International Relations, Seoul National University
B.A., International Relations, Seoul National University

Expertise
Classical Political Thought, International Political Thought, History of Political Thought

Most Recent Works
Course Information

Course Description
What are we supposed to learn from so-called “classics” of western political thought? Are the political teachings of the classics still valid in the contemporary political life? In this course we will think over these questions while reading closely well-known yet still controversial classical texts in the history of western political thought. Our readings will cover from ancient to modern political thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau. Although our readings are limited to selective materials of those thinkers, the readings will introduce us to the major political issues in the history of western political thought and, at the same time, enable us to understand the most important and persistent topics in the contemporary political life.

In general, when we read the ancient authors, Plato and Aristotle, we try to examine the questions as follows: what is proper relationship between politics and philosophy?; what is the best regime?; what is the nature of justice?; what is the role of rhetoric in both politics and philosophy? When we turn to modern thinkers, we try to understand the specific framework of modern society with the specific emphasis on the relationship between individuals and the political community. How do modern people understand the emergence of political society? What do modern individuals give up and preserve to make possible the emergence of political society? In addressing those questions we will understand the typical modern political concepts such as liberty, equality, individual rights, sovereignty, and social contract, all of which we share as our political values.

Basically, this course is an introductory one. So no background knowledge is required. The class format is a combination of lecture and discussion. Readings are relatively small but students are required to read the assigned readings before coming to the class for the discussion.

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 reflected in grade.

Course Materials
No purchase is required. All reading materials are hand-outs

Class Policy  
(Insert as necessary)

Etc.  
(e.g. Guidelines)
Course Schedule

Session 1 - Topic: Introduction
No reading assignment

Ancient Political Thought

Session 2
Plato’s Apology, Crito

Session 3
Plato’s Republic (I, II)
Session 4
Plato’s Republic (III, IV)

Session 5
Plato’s Republic (V, VI, VII)

Session 6
Aristotle, Politics Book 1, 2

Session 7
Aristotle, Politics, Books 3, 7

Session 8 Mid-term Exam

Modern Political Thought

Session 9
Hobbes, Leviathan (chs. 1~4, 13, 14)

Session 10
Hobbes, Leviathan (chs. 17, 18, 21, 26, 29, 31)

Session 11
Locke, On the Second Treatise (chs. 1~6)

Session 12
Locke, On the Second Treatise (chs. 7~9, 11, 14, 19)

Session 13
Rousseau, On the Origins of Inequality (entire)

Session 14
Rousseau, On Social Contract (parts)

Session 15 Final Exam