



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
History of Political Ideas and Concepts: From Utopia to Revolution	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Assist. dr. Laurynas Peluritis	Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy, Vilnius University
Other(s):	

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
1st cycle	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Face-to-face	1-2 semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: None	Additional requirements (if any): none

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	133	48	85

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>The course is designed to analyse and contextualise key political concepts and ideas, as well as to introduce students to approaches to the history of ideas and concepts in the general context of intellectual history. The course aims to combine historical knowledge with political theory, theory of law and history of philosophy, and to develop the ability to operate theoretical concepts and to relate them to broader intellectual research. Connecting the conceptual-theoretical and empirical knowledge is one of the most important competences required in academia and for a career beyond. The course consists of lectures and seminars devoted to the analysis of selected theoretical texts, historiography, and primary sources. The lectures will introduce students to the main known context of the authors and themes studied, while the seminar work will allow students to combine theoretical and concrete understanding of historical processes as studied in history of ideas. The final paper (essay) on a topic of the student's choice will also contribute to a better understanding of the theoretical approaches and historiography, and to a better understanding of the ways in which intellectual history is researched and narrativized.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to understand and analyse key Western political ideas and concepts from an interdisciplinary perspective (historical, legal, philosophical, sociological, etc.). Identify and be able to apply different methods and research strategies in intellectual history.	Presentation and analysis of discussion and problem-solving questions during lectures and seminars. Independent reading and analysis of historiographical positions.	Active participation in seminar assignments and lectures (analysis of theoretical texts, discussions, analytical and practical assignments). Applying the gained knowledge in the final exam.
Understanding and interpretation of theories and concepts related to intellectual history; Ability to critically and argumentatively evaluate and apply both theoretical and methodological perspectives from different disciplines in different ways; Knowledge of the most important authors and their texts, and ability to analyse them independently.	Presentation, discussion and debate of key texts, theories, and sources (historiography, theses, philosophy, cultural studies, etc.) during seminars. Preparing for the final exam.	Active participation in seminar assignments (analysis of theoretical texts, presentations, analytical and practical assignments). Applying the gained knowledge in the final exam.

Ability to choose a case study research strategy and methodological orientations, and to apply them in seminar assignments and in the final thesis.	Independent reading of theoretical texts, analysis of sources and full exposition of selected issues in seminar presentations and independent writing.	Seminar practical exercises (case studies, presentations), the ability to apply the knowledge acquired in lectures and independent work and in the final written work.

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. Intellectual history: history of ideas and history of concepts (Quentin Skinner vs. Reinhart Koselleck)	4		2					5	Reading of academic literature (Quentin Skinner, “Meaning and understanding in the history of ideas”, in: <i>Visions of Politics Volume I</i> , pp. 57-89; Reinhart Koselleck, “ <i>Begriffsgeschichte</i> and Social History”, in: <i>Futures Past</i> , pp. 75–92).
2. Utopia as a political concept (from Thomas More to modern dystopia)	4		2					5	Reading academic literature (Quentin Skinner, “Thomas More’s Utopia and the virtue of true nobility”, in: <i>Visions of Politics Volume II</i> , pp. 213-244).
3. Human nature and the state of nature. How has the debate on “nature” shaped Western political consciousness?	4		2					5	Reading of academic literature (Robert Trigg, <i>Ideas of Human Nature</i> , pp. 5-78).
4. The state and political regimes. History of the concept of the state (Quentin Skinner). The object of politics and the development of typologies of political systems (from Plato, Aristotle and Montesquieu to late modernity)	4		2					5	Reading of academic Literature (Quentin Skinner, “The sovereign state: a genealogy”, in: <i>Sovereignty in Fragments</i> , pp. 26-46)
5. History, historicism, and historical time	4								
6. Freedom and liberty as political concepts	4		2					5	Reading of academic Literature (Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty”,

										in: <i>Four Essays on Liberty</i> , pp. 166–217)
7. Tolerance: history of a concept (from John Locke to Herbert Marcuse)	2		2						5	Reading of academic Literature (Herbert Marcuse, On repressive tolerance, in: <i>A Critique of Pure Tolerance</i> , pp. 95-137)
8. Western tradition of law: from legal philosophy in Ancient Greece to modern concept of legal theory (Harold J. Berman)	2		2						5	Reading of academic Literature (Harold J. Berman, “The Western Legal Tradition in a Millennial Perspective: Past and Future”).
9. Revolution. A history and critique of a concept (Reinhart Koselleck vs. Hannah Arendt)	4		2						5	Reading of academic Literature (Hannah Arendt, On Revolution, pp. 11-58; Reinhart Koselleck, “Historical Criteria of the Modern Concept of Revolution”, in: <i>Futures Past</i> , pp. 43–57).
Preparation of presentation, final paper and exam									45	
Total	32		16						48	85

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Final exam	30	At the end of the semester	10 points: clear and detailed answers demonstrating in-depth understanding of the topics and themes studied during the course of the semester; 8-9 points: well formulated answers demonstrating reasonable knowledge of the given topics; 6-7 points: a very broad and general understating of topics and questions studied during the semester; 5 points: demonstrating a minimal understating of the topics and themes studied during the semester; 1-4 points: incoherent answers or plagiarism, lack of any substantial understanding of given topics and questions.
Participation in seminars and making a presentation	30	During the whole semester	10 points: the student participates actively, not only has an excellent knowledge and understanding of the topic under discussion, but is also able to analyse it in the context of the topic as a whole, formulates independent insights and conclusions, raises and justifies problematic statements, and performs well in all the tasks of the seminar; 8-9 points: the student participates actively, has a good knowledge and understanding of the topic under discussion, is able to interrelate the different aspects of the topic, reaches conclusions coherently, is able to raise problematic issues, and has completed most of the assignments; 6-7 points: superficial knowledge, knowledge of a narrow aspect or several aspects without being able to link them together, incomplete completion of seminar assignments;

			5 points: incomplete completion of the seminar assignments, failure to engage with the seminar topic, very superficial understanding of the material; 1-4: not meeting the attendance requirements, not completing the required assignments.
Essay (final paper)	40	Before the final exam	10 points: characterised by fluent, clear, detailed writing, with critical and original thinking, and an analysis of the chosen topic that is impeccable in form and content; 8-9 points: responds to all the tasks set, demonstrates critical thinking and evaluative skills, and is able to make connections between the different disciplines, topics and perspectives; 6-7 points: the work is of a compilative or descriptive in nature, with flaws in form and/or content-wise; 5 points: a compilational in nature, demonstrating only a minimal knowledge of the discipline and the chosen topic; 1-4 points: plagiarism or an element of plagiarism is present; the work does not meet the minimum requirements of form and content and/or does not fully respond to the objectives set.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Wolff, Robert Paul; Moore, Barrington Jr.; Marcuse, Herbert	1969	A Critique of Pure Tolerance		Boston: Beacon Press
Koselleck, Reinhart	1988	Critique and Crisis. Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society		MIT Press
Koselleck, Reinhart	2004	Futures Past. On the Semantics of Historical Time		Columbia University Press
Berman, Harold J.	2000	The Western Legal Tradition in a Millennial Perspective: Past and Future	Vol. 60, Nr. 3	Louisiana Law Review
Berlin, Isaiah	1969	Four Essays on Liberty		Oxford University
Arendt, Hannah	1963	On Revolution		Penguin Books
Skinner, Quentin	2002	Visions Of Politics Volume I: Regarding Method		Cambridge University Press
Skinner, Quentin	2002	Visions Of Politics Volume II: Renaissance Virtues		Cambridge University Press
Trigg, Roger	1999	Ideas of Human Nature: An Historical Introduction		Wiley-Blackwell
Edited by Hent Kalmo and Quentin Skinner	2010	Sovereignty in Fragments The Past, Present and Future of a Contested Concept		Cambridge University Press
Optional reading				
Richter, Melvin	1995	The History of Political and Social Concepts. A Critical Introduction		Oxford University Press
Pockock, John G. A.	1985	Virtue, Commerce, and History. Essays on Political Thought and History,		Cambridge University Press

		Chiefly in the Eighteenth Century		
Pocock, John G. A.	2009	Political Thought, and History. Essays on Theory and Method		Cambridge University Press
Skinner, Quentin	1998	Liberty before liberalism		Cambridge University Press
Edited by Susan Bruce	1999	Three Early Modern Utopias		Oxford University Press