COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Political Philosophy	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: Assist. Prof. Dr. Mindaugas Stoškus **Other(s):**	Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Philosophy, Department of Theoretical Philosophy and Philosophy of Science

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	Optional

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Blended	Spring semester; Autumn semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: English C1	Additional requirements (if any): None

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed
The course aims to provide the necessary knowledge and skills that allow understanding, analysing, and critically evaluating fundamental political problems (justice, freedom, equality, human nature, the purpose of the state, best political regime, state of nature, etc.) and the main trends in political life. It also aims to develop the ability to perceive political problems in the contemporary political world, anticipate possible development processes, and solve these problems while adhering to social responsibility, citizenship, human rights and ethical standards.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
- to be able to understand, critically analyse, and interpret ancient and contemporary texts related to political philosophy;	Problem-oriented lectures, analysis of political philosophy texts and real-life situations, dialogues with students and group discussion.	Active and effective participation in discussions during seminars. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment (VMA). Exam.
- to be able to recognize characteristic theoretical models of political philosophy and find ways to solve political problems within their frameworks;	Problem-oriented lectures, group discussion, academic debate, role-playing.	Active and effective participation in discussions during seminars. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment (VMA). Exam.
- to understand the political world, the nature, and purpose of political phenomena.	Problem-oriented lectures, analysis of political philosophy texts and real-life situations, dialogues with students and group discussion.	Exam.
- to be able to analyze political processes taking place in society, their potential challenges, and their political and ethical consequences;	Participatory lectures, self-study and information search, optional reading, and group discussion.	Exam.

	Participatory lectures, self-study and information search, optional reading, and group discussion.	Active and effective participation in discussions during seminars.
- to be able to discuss, provide logical arguments, and cooperate with colleagues when considering and evaluating political problems.		

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. The political reality and its specific characteristics in research. Political philosophy as a unique tool for understanding political reality. Assumptions of the emergence of political philosophy and its relation with other branches of philosophy.	2						2	3	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic.
2. The Sophists' approach to political life and justice. Socartes' philosophy.	2						2	3	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic.
3. Characteristics of Plato's political philosophy.	4		2				6	9	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading: Plato *The Republic*.
4. Characteristics of Aristotles's political philosophy.	4		2				6	9	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading: Aristotle The *Nikomachean Ethics*. Aristotle *The Politics*.
5. The Stoic perspective on political life.	2						2	3	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic.
6. Characteristics of Medieval political philosophy. The doctrine of the two swords and its role in the political history of the Western world. Aurelius Augustine, Thomas Aquinas.	4		2				6	8	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading: Aquinas *On Kingship*.
7. Humanism and political philosophy in the Renaissance. The break in the tradition of political philosophy. Nicollò Machiavelli.	2		2				4	8	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading: Machiavelli *The Prince*.
8. Characteristics of Modern political philosophy. Thomas Hobbes, John Locke. The formation of the ideology of liberalism.	4		4				8	18	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading:

Topic								Reading
								Hobbes *The Leviathan.* Locke *The Second Treatise of Government.*
9. Characteristics of Enlightenment political philosophy. Ch. L. de Montesquieu, I. Kant, J. J. Rousseau.	2		2				**4**	**8**	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading: Rousseau *Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men.*
10. 19th-century political philosophy. The formation of conservatism. The emergence of radical political ideologies. E. Burke. G. W. Hegel, K. Marx, J. S. Mill.	4		2				**6**	**10**	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic. Compulsory reading: Hegel *The Philosophy of History.*
11. An overview of the most significant political philosophy ideas of the 20th century. Analysis of contemporary trends in political philosophy.	2						**2**	**3**	Analysis of lecture material. Optional reading related to the lecture topic.
Total	**32**		**16**				**48**	**82**	

Assessment strategy	Weight,%	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Exam	60	During the session	Assessment is based on the following criteria: Completeness and precision of responses: 30 % Ability to prove and argue: 30 %
Activeness during seminars. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment during seminars.	40	During the semester	Assessment is based on the following criteria: Grounding one's own opinion: 10 % Accuracy and consistency of arguments: 10 % Correct answers during the assignments in the Virtual Learning Environment during seminars: 20 % The grounding of one's opinion and the accuracy of arguments are evaluated during each seminar. Attendance at seminars is mandatory. Missing more than half of the seminars will result in being ineligible to take an exam, and the course will need to be repeated.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Aristotle	1981	*The Politics*	The Internet Classics Archive	http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html
Aristotle		*The Nikomachean Ethics*	The Internet Classics Archive	http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html
Aquinas, Th.		*On Kingship*		https://isidore.co/misc/Res%20pro%20Deo/Logic/Logic%20Course%20Material/Aquinas%20Texts/Aquinas%20(Newer%20PDFs)/De%20Regno%20ENGLISH.pdf

Hegel, G. W.		*The Philosophy of History*		https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/hegel/history.pdf
Hobbes, Th.		*The Leviathan*		https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/hobbes/Leviathan.pdf
Locke, J.		*The Second Treatise of Government*	The Gutenberg Project	https://english.hku.hk/staff/kjohnson/PDF/LockeJohnSECONDTREATISE1690.pdf
Machiavelli, N.		*The Prince*	The Gutenberg Project	https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm
Plato		*The Republic*	The Internet Classics Archive	http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html
Rousseau, J. J.		*Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men.*		https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/125494/5019_Rousseau_Discourse_on_the_Origin_of_Inequality.pdf
Optional reading				
Klosko. G. (ed.)	2013	*The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy*		Oxford: Oxford University Press
Strauss L., Cropsey, J. (eds.)	1991	*The History of Political Philosophy*		Chicago: The University of Chicago Press
Wolf, J.	1996	*An Introduction to Political Philosophy*		Oxford: Oxford University Press