**ITB 227 E POLITICAL THEORY**

Spring 2015-2016 Tuesday 9:30-12:29 *Office*: # B4-320 Dept. Humanities and Social Sciences, FEB Office Hours: Thursday 09.00-13.00 Phone: 285 7277, email: kocan@itu.edu.tr

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to provide a broad overview of political theory. It will survey classic and contemporary approaches to some of the main topics in political theory. Through close brief readings of selected, major writings of political philosophers, students will able to explicate, analyze and compare key ideas of politics. Particular emphasis will be placed on the critical study of political values and of the concepts used in political theory: the concept of the political; power, authority, and related concepts; the state; law; liberty and rights; justice and equality; public interest and common good; democracy and representation; liberalism, socialism, and conservatism. It will also specifically focus on questions that are directly relevant to contemporary debates of political theory, for example: How should we live in political community and what are its proper limits of political community? What rules should govern the political community? How the state justified and what is justice? How does it relate to equality? What are human rights and should minority groups of political community be granted special rights? ‘Is war ever justified?’, ‘Is democracy the best form of ruling?

**Course Goals/Objectives:**

By the end of the semester a successful student should be able to do the following:

* Demonstrate a knowledge of key concepts and arguments of political theory
* Demonstrate an ability to interpret and understand key concepts of political theory
* Explain the nature and value of normative political argumentation
* Demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate and compare arguments in political theory
* Sharpen student’s competence in basic reading, verbal, writing and organizations and cooperation skills

**Course Structure and Methodology:**

The course will be a mixture of students’ presentations, lectures and discussions. The intention is to provide students with an overview of the concept for that week and then to discuss the issues question in the lecture. This is also a seminar course that is intended to facilitate discussion of the core readings for that week. It is essential that students are well prepared and organized for this course by: 1) finishing all the assigned readings; 2) attending and participating actively in all classes.

The lectures will begin with a brief (20 minute) presentation on the set readings. The aim here

is to provide background for clarification of theoretical arguments and political concepts that are revealed in the readings. In both the classes and seminars students are encouraged to participate as fully as possible. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion, and thus each student is expected to be prepared to ask questions and discuss the assigned readings on each day, and whether or not the student is presenting that day. Please be attentive to standard rules of decorum: respect the contribution of others, try to move class discussion forward (pay attention to what others say and respond to the previous point), avoid dogmatism, and so forth. Don’t forget your active participation to class discussions cannot lower your final grade, but it can improve it.

**Attendance:**

**ATTENDANCE IS NOT OPTIONAL BUT STRICTLY REQUIRED.** Class attendance will be taken each week. It is the responsibility of student to be sure that his/her attendance has been recorded. You are allowed maximum 4 unexcused absences; but, please note that every absence will have a negative effect on your grade. Students with 5 or more unexcused absences will receive an **FAIL**. In the case of illness or an emergency situation, official documentation must be provided to grant an excused absence. However, in the case of chronic illness or personal emergencies which require prolonged or frequent absences, the student should withdraw from this course and repeat it when circumstances allow for the fulfillment of course requirements

**Participation**

Students are expected to complete required readings by the class session indicated on the course schedule. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings such that class time is not wasted, and we can engage a discussion of the reading material together. Each student is expected to contribute to the discussion.

**Oral Presentation**:

Students present a critical review (not a summary) of the required readings and key concepts, raising specific questions and issues for discussions. Students will need to present

Their presentations in class along with visual aids. Presentation should be 20-25 minutes. **Anyone who misses their presentation without advanced notice or medical report will be given minus 20 marks.**

**Book Review:**

Students will be required to read and write a book review. The book review must be no longer than 1,200 words, double-spaced with a 12-point font, and conform to APA style. The book review provides the opportunity to investigate a philosopher’s specific work. It contains combination of both summary and analysis of the text. It should not consult any sources other than the text student is reviewing. Here is suggested structure of book review:

* First part should provide a brief description of content and purpose of the work.
* Second part identify main thesis and arguments of the work
* Third part should summarize the major ideas, themes, concepts and arguments of the text.
* Fourth part should critically evaluate and assess strengths and weaknesses main arguments of the text
* Final part should state main political insights that emerge from writings of the text

**The book review is due in Week 7.**

**Term Paper:**

Each student is required to write a research paper on examining a specific topic area related to political theory. The paper must be no longer than 2500 words, double-spaced with a 12-point font, and conform to APA style. It provides the opportunity to delve into an understanding of the specific issue of political theory. All papers demand thoughtful synthesis. Students are also required to write an outline demonstrating structures of the paper.

**The term paper is due in in Week 14.**

Term paper should contain three major parts: 1) an introduction which clearly states objectives and provide guideposts; 2) a body which communicates the material used to meet your objectives; and 3) summary which concentrates your argument, indicates how your argument meet your objectives, and provides a conclusion about your arguments and their propositions.

**In writing, your papers also keep in mind the following points.**

1. Try to be analytical in your presentation instead of simply descriptive.

2 Define and clarify the concepts you use.

3. Organize your paper in a logical sequence.

4. If you make value statements, support your perspective with reasoning

5. There is never a good reason to paraphrase a source--either summarize it in your own words or quote it exactly and (citing the source in either case).

6. When you use information that might not be considered common knowledge, cite the source

**Late papers will be penalized at 5% per each day, for up to 7 days after the due date, after which the paperwork will receive an automatic zero. Students requiring extensions MUST bring medical report.**

**DO NOT PLAGIARIZE as this will be severely penalized!**

**Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:**

Plagiarism is a form of stealing a person's works, ideas or writings. Therefore, plagiarism in ITU, as in many educational institutions around the world, is treated as a serious academic offence. According to the definition given in the Oxford Compact English Dictionary, plagiarism is **"to take the work or idea of someone else and pass it off as one’s own”** To copy sentences, phrases or even expression of an idea without acknowledgement of the source is plagiarism; to paraphrase without reference and copying other students' work is the same plagiarism. Therefore, no student shall, with intent to deceive, submit the words, sentences, phrases of another person as his or her own in any assignment submitted in the course. The internet gives every student access to enormous written academic materials and plagiarism in the form of **CUT and** **PASTE** has increased. Therefore, if I suspect that student has plagiarized any written assignment submitted to me. I will immediately investigate the internet and any other source. If Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty is proven, at the very least you will **FAIL** the course and A **REPORT** will be sent to the Faculty’s **Committee on Discipline** documenting your cheating and dishonesty. Committee on Disciplinetreats plagiarism as a serious offence and takes a very severe line on students who plagiarize work. Therefore, Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will have severe disciplinary consequences for students. If students are in doubt about what counts as plagiarism, or about how to properly reference a source, consult your instructor or Writing Research Papers prepared and compiled by the teachers of ITU advanced English Program.

**The final exam:**

There will be a final 2-hour examination in this course. Date, time and place of the final exam will be scheduled by Istanbul Technical University. The examination will cover everything all required readings and all in-class discussion.

**Grading Procedure:**

Your final grade for the class will be based on two sets of analytical papers (50%), oral presentation (10%), attendance, participation, and discussion (10%) and final exam (30%).

Attendance and Participation 10%

Presentation 10%

Book review 20%

2. Term paper 30%

Final Exam 30%

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. Class begins on time at the appointed time. Be on time and stay until the end of class.

2. There is to be no sleeping in class. Stay awake and alert.

3. Turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices.

4. Do not carry on private talking while class is in progress., send text messages, etc. If you prefer to do these things at class time, don’t come to class

If you use a laptop in class, please use it only to take notes (unless asked by the instructor).

**Required Texts**

David Boucher & Paul Kelly (ed.), 2009. *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Michael L. Morgan (ed.), 2011. *Classics of Moral and Political Theory* New York: Hackett.

**The following are also useful introductions**

Adam Swift, 2006. *Political Philosophy: a Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians.* Cambridge: Polity Press

Catherina McKinnon, 2008. *Issues in Political Theory* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Christopher Rowe and Malcolm Schofield, 2000. *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Colin Farrelly, 2004. *Introduction to Contemporary Political Theory* London: Sage.

Donald G. Tannenbaum and David Schultz, 1998. *Inventors of Ideas: An Introduction to Western Political Philosophy*. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

G.W. Sheldon, 2003. *The History of Political Theory: Ancient Greece to Modern America*, New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

Gerald Gaus, .2000. *Political Concepts and Political Theories* Boulder: Westview press.

Gerald Gaus, and C. Kukathas (ed.),.2004. *Handbook of Political Theory* London: Sage.

Iain Hampsher-Monk, 1992. *A History of Modern Political Thought: Major Political Thinkers from Hobbes to Marx*. Cambridge: Blackwell.

Janet Coleman, 2004. *Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*, London: Blackwell.

John Dryzek., B. Honig, B. And A. Phillips, A. (eds.) 2006. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

John H. Hallowell and Jane M. Porter, 1997. *Political Philosophy: The Search for Humanity and Order*, Toronto: Prentice Hall.

John Hoffman, and Paul Graham, 2009. *An Introduction to Political Theory New York:* Pearson-Longman.

Jonathan Wolff, 2006. *Introduction to Political Philosophy* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Michael Curtis (ed.), 2008. *The Great Political Theories*. New York: Harper Collins.

Michael Rosen. And Jonathan Wolff, (eds) 1999. *Political thought*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Patricia Springborg, 2006. *History of Political Thought: The Emergence of Political Thinking in the West from Plato to Aquinas*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

Peri Roberts, and Peter Sutch, 2008. *An Introduction to Political Thought: Key Concepts and Thinkers.* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press,

Robert Goodin and Philippe Pettit, (ed.), .1993. *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy* Oxford: Blackwell.

Will Kymlicka 2001. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The required readings for this course are included in the course reader packet: **ITB 227 E POLITICAL THEORY** that can also be purchased at the at the photocopy shop in Faculty of Science and Letters Building.

**Course Mechanics**

**WEEK ONE**

General Introduction to the Course

Introducing the course syllabus, discuss assessment, expectations, and course format

**What is ‘Political Theory’, and Why Does it Matter?**

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Introduction: pp. 1-23.

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, Introduction (1-20)

**WEEK TWO**

**Plato***:*

*Euthyphro*

*Apology*

*Crito*

*Phaedo Death Scene*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 2: pp. 23-40

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 3: pp. 40- 54

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, Introduction (1-20)

**WEEK THREE**

**Plato**

*Republic* and Justice

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 4: pp. 54-73

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, chapter 1 (25-45)

**WEEK FOUR**

**Aristotle,**

*Politics*:

*Nicomachean Ethics*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 5: pp. 83-98;

Reading:Roberts and Sutch, chapter 2 (46-66)

**WEEK FIVE**

St. Augustine:

*The City of God*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 7: pp. 120- 130;

**Thomas Aquinas**:

On Kingship

*Summa Theologica*

*On the Virtues in General*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 8: pp. 134-146

**WEEK SIX**

**Nicola Machiavelli**:

*Letter to Francesco Vettori*

*The Prince*

*Discourses*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 10: pp. 165-182

Marsiglio of Padua:

*Defensor Pacis* <http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/marsiglio4.asp>

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 9: pp. 148-163

Reading:

**WEEK SEVEN**

**Thomas Hobbes**,

*Leviathan*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 10: pp. 198- 205

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, chapters 3 and 4, on Hobbes (69-83 and 103-110)

***WEEK EIGHT***

**John Locke**

*Second Treatise of Government*

*A Letter Concerning Toleration*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 11: pp. 209-222

Roberts and Sutch, chapters 3 and 4, on Locke (83-92 and 110-116)

**David Hume**

*Treatise of Human Nature*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 12: pp. 283- 301

**Book Review Due to**

**WEEK NINE**

J.J. Rousseau

*Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

*On the Social Contract*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 14: pp. 235- 2243

Roberts and Sutch, chapters 3 and 4, on Rousseau (92-99 and 116-122)

Montesquieu

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 13: pp. 217-235

**E. Burke**

*Speech to the Electors of Bristol*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 21: pp.363-383

**The Federalist Papers: 'Republic' redefined**

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 15: pp. 253-270

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, chapter 9 (241-266)

**WEEK TEN**

**Immanuel Kant**

*Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* 944

*To Perpetual Peace* 985

**M. Wollstonecraft:** Men's rights and women's freedom

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 16: pp. 270- 288

**L. Tocqueville:** Democracy's need for stabilizing beliefs

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 17: pp. 288- 307

Reading:

**WEEK ELEVEN**

**Jeremy Bentham**

*Introduction to Principles of Morals and Legislation*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 18: pp. 307-324

Roberts and Sutch, chapter 6 (153-180)

**John Stuart Mill,**

*Utilitarianism*

*On Liberty*

*On the Subjection of the Woman*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 19-20: pp. 324- 363

Reading:

**WEEK TWELVE**

**G.W. Hegel**

*The Philosophy of Right*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 22: pp. 383-404

**Karl Marx:**

*Alienated Labor* 1160

*On the Jewish Question* 1167

*Communist Manifesto* 1183

*Critique of the Gotha Program*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 23-24 pp. 405-433.

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, chapter 5, on Owen and Marx (125-150)

**WEEK THIRTEEN**

**Friedrich Nietzsche**

*On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*

*On the Genealogy of Morality*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 25: pp. 436-459

Michel Foucault

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 29: pp. 551-5537

Reading:

**WEEK FOURTEEN**

**John Rawls:**

*A Theory of Justice*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 28: pp. 496-516

Roberts and Sutch, chapter 7 (181-208)

**M. Oakeshott**

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 26: pp. 459-480

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, chapter 9 (241-266)

Roberts and Sutch, chapter 10 (273-299)

**Jurgen Habermas:**

*Between Facts and Norms*

Reading: Boucher and Kelly, Chapter 27: pp. 480-496

Reading: Roberts and Sutch, chapter 8 (209-236)

Roberts and Sutch, chapter 11 (299-328)

**Term Paper Due To**