

History of Political Thought A | POU22011

Year	Senior Fresh
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	20 hours of lectures, 5 hours of tutorials
Pre-requisite	POU11011&POU11012 or POU11033&POU11034
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Peter Stone
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Module Outline

Module Learning Aims:

This module will introduce students to the history of political thought, with a focus upon the ancient world of classical Greece.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this module, it is expected that students should have:

- Acquired an overview of the history of political thought.
- Become familiar with major political theorists from that history such as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle.
- Become familiar with some of the major concepts that appear in political theory, such as democracy, tyranny, and feminism.
- Developed skills at analysing and critiquing political arguments.
- Reflected upon the implications of ideas from the history of political thought for contemporary politics.

Module Content:

Topics to be covered may include the birth of politics in ancient Athens; Plato's critique of democracy; the justification of political rule; the role of virtue in political life.

Assessment

3 Short Paper: 45% (15% each)

Final Paper: 55%

Recommended Reading List

Useful introductory readings covering many of the thinkers and concepts included in the module can be found below:

Boucher, David and Kelly, Paul, eds. *Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Rawls, John. *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2007.

S.S. Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, Expanded Edition, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004. Consists of a series of sophisticated interpretative essays. A serious work, well worth close study.

A useful source book for primary texts is:

Classics of Moral and Political Theory, Michael L. Morgan (ed.), Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis (Cambridge, 1992). (This is an excellent collection of, in many cases, the complete texts of the relevant political thinkers).