I. OVERVIEW
The following information will appear in the 2011 - 2012 catalog

POLSC 130 Political Theory 3 Units

Studies major political theorists and their analyses of political concepts, including democracy, freedom, authority, equality, and political leadership. Investigates how political theory is practically relevant and connected to current political issues.

Field trips are not required. (A-F or P/NP - Student choice) Lecture
Transfer: (CSU, UC) General Education: (MJC-GE: B ) (CSU-GE: D8 ) (IGETC: 4H )

II. LEARNING CONTEXT
Given the following learning context, the student who satisfactorily completes this course should be able to achieve the goals specified in Section III, Desired Learning:

A. COURSE CONTENT

1. Required Content:

a. The Field of Political Theory

i. Political theory as a major field of political science

ii. Political theory and politics

iii. Conceptual analysis and political theory (m.c.)

iv. Historical context and political theory

v. Historical development of political theory

vi. Political culture and political theories (m.c.)

vii. Political theory and stories in literature

b. Political Theory and Government

i. Assessing the necessity of government

ii. Different kinds of government (m.c.)

iii. Evaluating purposes of government (m.c.)

iv. Citizens and government

c. The Concept of Democracy

i. Democratic theory and ancient Greek political theory

ii. Democracy and republicanisim

iii. The social contract and John Locke's theory
iv. Majority rule and minority rights
v. Concerns with majority rights (m.c.)
vi. Alternatives to democracy
  a. Aristocracy (m.c.)
  b. Theocracy (m.c.)
  c. Thomas Hobbes and absolutism (m.c.)

d. The Concepts of Political Freedom, Authority, and Equality
  i. The meaning of political freedom, and John Stuart Mill
  ii. Fyodor Dostoevsky's literature for understanding political freedom (m.c.)
  iii. Political freedom and oppression in countries today (m.c.)
  iv. Relating political theorists to First Amendment cases (m.c.)
  v. Comparing political freedom and authority
  vi. Comparing political freedom and equality
  vii. Karl Marx, oppression, and equality
  viii. Feminist political theory and gender equality (m.c.)

e. Theories of Justice
  i. Comparing theorists of justice (m.c.)
     a. Plato
     b. Aristotle
     c. St. Augustine
  ii. Jean Bethke Elshtain and just war theory (m.c.)
  iii. International law and justice
  iv. Just war theory and current wars (m.c.)

Responsible Political Leadership
  i. Evaluating the political theory of Niccolo Machiavelli (m.c.)
  ii. The idea of realpolitik and its relation to power
  iii. Criticisms of realpolitik
  iv. The meaning of political responsibility
  v. Political ethics and political leadership (m.c.)
2. Political Participation and Citizenship
   a. Hannah Arendt and political action
   b. The question of civil disobedience
   c. Theories of nonviolence (m.c.)
   d. Reflecting on political theorists' views of political participation

3. Political Theory and Politics
   a. How political theory guides political action
   b. Politics in the world today (m.c.)

- **HOURS AND UNITS**

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<th>INST METHOD</th>
<th>TERM HOURS</th>
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- **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION (TYPICAL)**
  Instructors of the course might conduct the course using the following method:

  1. Lecture
  2. Use visual aid supplements such as DVDs and PowerPoint slides
  3. Assign various readings
  4. Assign various papers designed to promote critical thinking
  5. Give several web-based assignments
  6. Have instructor-led oral discussions designed to require a student to defend, assess, and appraise his or her own conclusions

- **ASSIGNMENTS (TYPICAL)**

  1. **EVIDENCE OF APPROPRIATE WORKLOAD FOR COURSE UNITS**
     Time spent on coursework in addition to hours of instruction (lecture hours)
     A. Weekly reading assignments
     B. Multiple essays per term
     C. Studying for multiple exams per term
     D. Studying for multiple quizzes per term

  2. **EVIDENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING**
     Assignments require the appropriate level of critical thinking
A. Exam Question: Great political theory is created in times of political crisis.” Critically assess this statement. When doing so, please discuss at least four political theorists.

B. Essay Question: The student is assigned to read a text by a political theorist and write a paper assessing that political theorist in relation to a political concept. For example, the paper could analyze Niccolo Machiavelli in relation to political action.

• TEXTS AND OTHER READINGS (TYPICAL)


• DESIRED LEARNING

A. COURSE GOAL
As a result of satisfactory completion of this course, the student should be prepared to:

explain how political theory informs political practice. This will provide preparation for upper-division coursework in political theory and political science.

B. STUDENT LEARNING GOALS
Mastery of the following learning goals will enable the student to achieve the overall course goal.

A. Required Learning Goals
Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

a. Examine political theory as a major field in political science.

b. Investigate the historical development of political theory. (m.c.)

c. Discuss and evaluate epic political theorists (e.g., John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, Niccolo Machiavelli). (m.c.)

d. Compare how political theorists analyze fundamental political concepts (e.g., democracy, freedom, authority, equality, political leadership, political participation). (m.c.)

e. Discuss and examine major issues in the field (e.g., whether democracy is the ideal government, the relationship between political freedom and authority, just war theory vs. realpolitik, the relationship between political responsibility and leadership, the nature of political ethics). (m.c.)

f. Describe the contributions of feminist political theorists. (m.c.)

g. Analyze how political theory relates to current issues and problems (e.g., the "war on terror," First Amendment cases). (m.c.)

h. Explain how political theory informs political practice.

i. Use various approaches to address questions and issues in the field.

• METHODS OF ASSESSMENT (TYPICAL)

A. FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

A. Class participation

B. Web-based Assignments
C. Papers
D. Quizzes
E. Essay tests

B. **SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT**
   A. Comprehensive final exam