

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

New Course  OR Existing Course

Author(s): Edward Fielder Haven

Subject Area/Course No.: POLSC-133/PHIL-133

Units: 3

Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought

Discipline(s): Philosophy; Political Science; History;

Pre-Requisite(s): None

Co-Requisite(s): None

Advisories: Eligibility for ENGL-100

### Catalog Description:

An introduction to the history and development of political theory and thought. The primary goal of this course is to examine various theoretical approaches to politics, basic political problems and proposed solutions, while analyzing historical theories in order to address contemporary problems. The course will proceed with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of primary texts and their authors in historical context. POLSC-133 meets the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement. PHIL-133 meets the Art and Humanities requirement.

### Schedule Description:

What are the difficulties in sustaining a government? What is justice? What are the limits of a states rights? This course is an introduction to the history and development of political theory and thought. The primary goal of this course is to examine various theoretical approaches to politics, basic political problems and proposed solutions, while analyzing historical theories in order to address contemporary problems. The course will proceed with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to the study of primary texts and their authors in historical context. POLSC-133 meets the Social and Behavioral Sciences requirement. PHIL-133 meets the Art and Humanities requirement.

Hrs/Mode of Instruction: Lecture: 54 Scheduled Lab:      HBA Lab:      Composition:      Activity:      Total Hours 54

Credit  Credit Degree Applicable (DA)  
 Credit Non-Degree (NDA)

Grading  Pass/No Pass (P/NP)  
 Letter (LR)  
 Student Choice (SC)

Repeatability  0  
 1  
 2  
 3

Last date of Assessment:      Fall 17      Cohort #: 1

Please apply for:

LMC General Education Requirement(s): B. Social & Behavioral Sciences and C. Arts & Humanities

Transfer to:  CSU  UC  IGETC Area 3B, 4A  CSU GE Area C2, D8  C-ID Number POLS-120

Course is Baccalaureate Level:  Yes  No

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College      2700 East Leland Road      Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

**Signatures:**

Department Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Librarian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Dean (Technical Review) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Curriculum Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President/Designee \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
CCCCD Approval Date (Board or Chancellor's Office) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**STAND ALONE COURSE:                      YES                      NO**

**Course approved by Curriculum Committee as Baccalaureate Level:                      YES                      NO**

**LMC GE Requirement Approved by the Curriculum Committee: \_\_\_\_\_**

**FOR OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION ONLY. DO NOT WRITE IN THE SECTION BELOW.**

Begin in Semester \_\_\_\_\_ Catalog year 20\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_ Class Max: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dept. Code/Name: \_\_\_\_\_ T.O.P.s Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Crossover course 1/ 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
ESL Class: Yes / No DSPS Class: Yes / No Coop Work Exp: Yes / No

- |            |  |          |  |                   |  |
|------------|--|----------|--|-------------------|--|
| Class Code | <input type="checkbox"/> A Liberal Arts & Sciences<br><input type="checkbox"/> B Developmental Preparatory<br><input type="checkbox"/> C Adult/Secondary Basic Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> D Personal Development/Survival<br><input type="checkbox"/> E For Substantially Handicapped<br><input type="checkbox"/> F Parenting/Family Support<br><input type="checkbox"/> G Community/Civic Development<br><input type="checkbox"/> H General and Cultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> I Career/Technical Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> J Workforce Preparation Enhanced<br><input type="checkbox"/> K Other non-credit enhanced<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible for enhanced | SAM Code | <input type="checkbox"/> A Apprenticeship<br><input type="checkbox"/> B Advanced Occupational<br><input type="checkbox"/> C Clearly Occupational<br><input type="checkbox"/> D Possibly Occupational<br><input type="checkbox"/> E* Non-Occupational | Remediation Level | <input type="checkbox"/> B Basic Skills<br><input type="checkbox"/> NBS Not Basic Skills |
|------------|--|----------|--|-------------------|--|
- \*Additional criteria needed  
 1 One level below transfer  
 2 Two levels below transfer  
 3 Three levels below transfer

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

## **Institutional Student Learning Outcomes:**



### **General Education SLOs:**

At the completion of the LMC general education program, a student will:

1. read critically and communicate effectively as a writer and speaker.
2. understand connections among disciplines and apply interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving.
3. think critically and creatively.
4. consider the ethical implications inherent in knowledge, decision-making and action.
5. possess a worldview informed by diverse social, multicultural and global perspectives.



None

## **Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs):**

### **Philosophy:**

1. Citizenship – Developing and applying ethical responsibility and care in academics, the workplace, and global and local communities, while respecting and engaging with a diversity of beliefs, cultures, values, abilities, genders, races, ages, and sexual orientations.
2. Critical Engagement – Becoming critical co-investigators of a pluralistic world towards the agency to apply critical thinking to themselves, their communities and their societies, imparting an ethical imperative.
3. Philosophical Enquiry – Applying the methodologies of philosophy and critical thinking to describe and analyze philosophical and interdisciplinary problems and issues, including in historical context.
4. Philosophical Expression – Express complex philosophical ideas and arguments in clear, coherent and cogent written and oral communication.

## **Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs):**

1. Analyze and evaluate political theories from the traditional Western philosophy, marginalized groups and underrepresented voices, using original texts. (GESLO 1, 3, 4 PSLO PHIL 2, 3, 4 POLSC )
2. Develop a critical understanding of the larger philosophical questions at issue in political science from multicultural perspectives, such as: the nature of justice, the proper limits of individual and governmental rights, etc. (GESLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 PSLO PHIL 1, 2, 3, 4 POLSC )
3. Develop writing and oral presentation skills as applied to topics in political philosophy. (GESLO 1, 2 PSLO PHIL 1, 4 POLSC )
4. Analyze and Evaluate political theory as it applies to contemporary issues, political life and political institutions, and the ethical concerns that arise. (GESLO 2, 3, 4 PSLO PHIL 1, 2, 3 POLSC )

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

## **Assessment Instruments:**

Through the course of the semester students will receive both formative and summative assessments to evaluate their progress towards mastery of the student learning outcomes. Assessments may take on many forms. All assessments will focus on critical engagement with the material in the course, student comprehension of the underlying interconnected philosophical issues and their ability to articulate a well founded position within the philosophical field of discourse. Students' course work will be assessed by but are not limited to the following methods:

	<u>Writing Assignments</u>	<u>Reading Assessments</u>	<u>In Class Activities</u>
CSLO 1	X	X	X
CSLO 2	X		X
CSLO 3	X	X	X
CLSO 4	X		X

### **1. Analyze and evaluate political theories from the traditional Western philosophy, marginalized groups and underrepresented voices, using original texts. (GESLO 1, 3, 4 PSLO PHIL 2, 3, 4 POLSC )**

#### Writing Assessments

Students will be required to use the political theories they have learned to complete a formal argumentative essay analyzing and evaluating the philosophy content of the political theories.

#### Reading Assessments

Reading assignments, such as an exposition of a text, will give students the opportunity to analyze the primary texts of political philosophy, creating a direct engagement with the readings which will serve as the backbone of the course.

#### In Class Activities

In Class Activities will provide a formative assessment of the material as a building block towards the formal expression and analysis found in reading and writing assignments, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate and develop their understand of the texts.

#### Sample Assignment:

The following is a sample take home set of study questions to be complete when reading the material and then reviewed in class.

Questions on Marx's "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844" & "The German Ideology"

1. Explain why Marx thinks that the worker is often made into a commodity. Why is this a problem?
2. Why does Marx claim that the justification for private property, wages and labor relations were never fully explained? Who should justify them? Why haven't they been justified? Who benefits most from the structure at the time?
3. Explain this quote: "So much does the appropriation of the object appear as estrangement that the more objects the worker produces the less he can possess and the more he falls under the sway of his product, capital"(702).
4. ". . .that in his work, therefore, he does not affirm himself but denies himself, does not feel content but unhappy, does not develop freely his physical and mental energy but mortifies his body and ruins his mind. The worker therefore only feels himself outside his work, and in his work feels outside himself" (703). Explain why Marx views many workers as being alienated from their work.

### **2. Develop a critical understanding of the larger philosophical questions at issue in political science from multicultural perspectives, such as: the nature of justice, the proper limits of individual and governmental rights, etc. (GESLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 PSLO PHIL 1, 2, 3, 4 POLSC )**

#### Writing Assignments

Students will be required to complete a formal argumentative essay analyzing, and evaluating the philosophical questions at issue in political science, arguing for a particular stance within a well informed multicultural understanding of the larger discourse.

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

## In Class Activities

In Class Activities will provide a formative assessment of the material, and will serve as the first opportunity for student to grapple with the larger questions as they evaluate competing theories ability to answer these questions.

## Sample Assignment:

Choose one of the following topics for your second paper. In this paper you'll be exploring a philosophical topic in relation to Rousseau, Mill, Marx or Rawls. Make sure you defend a point of view in your paper (your thesis). You need to find at least one outside (scholarly) source to bring greater insight to your paper. You should also cite several direct quotes from the textbook in your paper. The paper needs to be 6-7 pages, double-spaced and in MLA format. Make sure to create a works cited page.

Choose one of the following topics:

1. Evaluate Rousseau's untraditional views of civilization and the downsides of the cultivation of human reason and progress. Choose two examples from the modern age of issues that society is dealing with due to human "progress." Defend Rousseau's view that progress isn't always a good thing by citing these examples. Also, find one other thinker from history that agrees with Rousseau and use his/her perspective to further your argument.

2. Mill believed that the presence of opposing views was utterly necessary to the pursuit of truth. In this paper, look at two historical or modern examples where opposing views were/are being suppressed (can be in the U.S. or international examples). Explore, with the help of Mill's *On Liberty*, why such suppression is dangerous to human progress, why such suppression takes place, and how we can cultivate a national and international culture that stops suppression of views.

3. Think about and articulate the concept of alienation as outlined by Marx. Do you see alienation as an aspect of modern U.S. society? If so, how? Have you experienced alienation in your personal or work life? Evaluate whether you think the modern work culture gives rise to alienation. If not for everyone, then for whom? Is there any way that such experiences of alienation can be prevented? Evaluate Marx's answer to the problem of alienation and offer your own reaction to his thinking.

4. John Rawls sought an unbiased definition of justice. Outline Rawls's concept of the original position and the veil of ignorance. Evaluate whether you think Rawls succeeds in articulating an unbiased definition of justice. Choose two examples from modern society of groups that suffer from a lack of equality and justice and apply Rawls's concept of justice to these situations. If Rawls's original position had been applied, could such situations have been prevented? Do you think it's possible to apply Rawls's theory? Why or why not?

## **3. Develop writing and oral presentation skills as applied to topics in political philosophy. (GESLO 1, 2 PSLO PHIL 1, 4 POLSC )**

### Writing Assignments

All writing assignments will require students to present their ideas on a philosophical issue in a formally written argument.

### Reading Assessments

Reading assignments may include formally written arguments for how the text ought to be understood or translated, within the context of the philosophical theory.

### In Class Activities

Students will be assessed on their oral presentation of material in class. The oral presentations will be a graded assignment in which students must demonstrate mastery of the assigned material.

### Sample Assignment

All students have been assigned (in class) a passage from John Locke's *2nd Treatise on Government*. Students will be required to read the passage and present a summary and analysis of the passage. This will include identifying: What is the main theme in this section? What method is used to show this? What terms are defined in this section? And any other information you might find useful.

Students will be graded on: Their preparedness, accuracy of information, quality of analysis and ability to answer questions from the professor about the section.

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

***4. Analyze and Evaluate political theory as it applies to contemporary issues, political life and political institutions, and the ethical concerns that arise. (GESLO 2, 3, 4 PSLO PHIL 1, 2, 3 POLSC )***

## Writing Assignments

Students will be required to complete a formal argumentative essay, which challenges them to provide a solution from an applied political theory they have learned about contemporary issues, political life and political institutions, and the ethical concerns that arise. The essay will consider the ethical impacts of their decision.

## In Class Activities

In Class Activities will provide a formative assessment of the material, and will serve as an opportunity for student to apply the theories to thought experiments and real world examples, opening up an evaluation on the effectiveness of the theories.

## Sample Assignment:

All students will participate in at least one of the parliamentary style debates, which will focus on a current political issue. Students will be given the topic and assigned a role two weeks in advance. You may be assigned a side of the argument that you do not personally agree with, but you will still have to prepare and present the argument. We all understand that the views may not be your own, and will not hold you personally responsible for them. This is a critical thinking exercise so just have fun with it.

## Research brief:

One week after receiving the topic, students participating in the debate must complete a research brief on the topic, providing the necessary current information, answering the questions below:

- 1) Context: When did this topic become of concern?
  - When did it enter the public discourse?
  - When did this topic become popular?
- 2) Framing: How is this topic discussed in the public sphere? What is being said about it in society?
  - How does the general public perceive it? (Positively or negatively?)
  - How do people in power or government agencies perceive it?
- 3) Stakeholders: Who are the parties involved in this issue?
  - What is the main reason why this is important to each stakeholder?
  - When did the stakeholders get involved and why?
- 4) Locality: How would you define either the physical region OR the intellectual realm?
  - Physical region: Where is this taking place? What are the cultural aspects of the topic?
  - Intellectual realm: Which other issues or topics is this one tied to? (Are there other related "tags?")
- 5) Clash: What is the point of conflict in this topic? What is this topic about, at its core?
  - How can you "boil down" the topic? ("It's A vs B")
  - When considering this topic, what are the most important clashes?
- 6) Impacts: What are the positive and negative impacts of this topic/concept/issue?
  - What are the social impacts?
  - What are the political impacts?
  - What are the economic impacts?
- 7) Application: What kind of motions might you run on this topic/issue/concept?
  - Would this lend itself to policy motions or value motions?
  - For a policy motion, what are potential arguments pro & con?
  - For a value motion, what are potential arguments pro & con?

## Presentation:

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College      2700 East Leland Road      Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

Student presentations will follow the Parliamentary Debate form and procedures. With the time limited down to five minutes. Students will be expected to present at least one rebuttal.

*Sample Topics:*

1. This House believes that 'the power to tax is the power to destroy'. (Justice John Marshall).
2. This House believes that only the elite can truly successfully manage national affairs.
3. This House would reject big government.

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

## **Method of Evaluation/Grading:**

The course will follow major historical periods, each dealing with a particular historical philosophical age. Each section will be composed of in class activities to help the students better engage with the material, reading assessments for the assigned readings in the section, and will culminate in a paper. Additional assessment may be made by the instructor as needed.

A sample break down of grade weight by approximate percentage value could be:

Writing Assignments 45% (15% per paper, with the lowest paper grade dropped)

Participation 25% (over ~20 – 30 graded activities)

Reading Journals 30% (15 assignments each worth 2%)

Upon completion of the course, a percentage of completed course work will be calculated using the assessments from the course. A letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	0 – 59%

A student who earns an 'A' grade will have achieved mastery in the course-level learning outcomes, demonstrating exceptional ability for critical engagement with the material in the course, comprehension of the underlying interconnected philosophical issues and their ability to articulate a well founded position within the philosophy field of discourse.

A student who earns a 'B' grade will have achieved near mastery or mastery in some but not all of the course-level learning outcomes, demonstrating a strong ability for critical engagement with the material in the course, comprehension of the underlying interconnected philosophical issues and their ability to articulate a well founded position within the philosophy field of discourse.

A Student who earns a 'C' grade will have achieved a satisfactory completion of the course-level learning outcomes, demonstrating satisfactory ability for critical engagement with the material in the course, comprehension of the underlying interconnected philosophical issues and their ability to articulate a well founded position within the philosophy field of discourse.

A student who earns a 'D' grade will have achieved near satisfactory completion or satisfactory completion in some but not all of the course-level learning outcomes, demonstrating below standard ability for critical engagement with the material in the course, comprehension of the underlying interconnected philosophical issues and their ability to articulate a well founded position within the philosophy field of discourse.

A student who earns a 'F' grade will lack satisfactory completion of the course-level learning outcomes, demonstrating a deficiency in ability for critical engagement with the material in the course, comprehension of the underlying interconnected philosophical issues and their ability to articulate a well founded position within the philosophy field of discourse.



# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

## **Course Content:**

This course will be organized by the historical progression of thought and philosophy, giving students the opportunity to see the dialectic interchange and advancement of a specific historical period, giving needed background context to understand the people of the period but also contemporary philosophical issues.

Sample outline:

Introductions, discussion of key political philosophical questions and themes, hand out syllabus.

### I. Ancient and Medieval Political Theory

1. Confucius' Analects
2. Plato's Republic
2. Aristotle's Politics
3. Sections from Dharmasutras and Arthashastra

### II. Modern Social Contract Theory

1. Hobbes's Leviathan
2. John Locke's 2nd Treatise on Government
3. Mary Wollstonecraft Vindication of the Rights of Woman
3. Jean Jacques Rousseau's Discourse on the Origin of Inequality.
4. Rousseau On the Social Contract

### III. Freedom and the Problem of Modern Mass Society

1. John Stuart Mill On Liberty
2. de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*
3. Karl Marx, "1844 Manuscripts," "The German Ideology"
4. Karl Marx, "Manifesto of the Communist Party"

### IV. Contemporary Political Theory

1. John Rawls, A Theory of Justice,
2. Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State and Utopia
3. Michel Foucault Archaeology of Knowledge
4. Franz Fanon Wretched of the Earth
5. Charles Mills "The Racial Contract"
6. Carol Pateman, The Sexual Contract
7. Virginia Held "Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View"

# Course Outline of Record

Los Medanos College

2700 East Leland Road

Pittsburg CA 94565

**Course Title: Philosophy of Political Theory and Thought**

**Subject Area/Course Number: POLSC-133/PHIL-133**

---

## **Lab By Arrangement Activities (If Applicable):**

### **Instructional Methods:**

- Lecture
- Lab
- Activity
- Problem-based Learning/Case Studies
- Collaborative Learning/Peer Review
- Demonstration/Modeling
- Role-Playing
- Discussion
- Computer Assisted Instruction
- Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

### **Textbooks:**

Primary sources such as, but not limited to:

Arendt. The Human Condition

Aristotle. Politics

Hobbes. Leviathan

Locke. Two Treatises on Government

Machiavelli. The Prince, The Discourses

Marx. Selected Writings

Plato. The Republic

Rawls. A Theory of Justice

Rousseau. The Social Contract, Discourse on the Origins of Inequality

de Tocqueville. Democracy in America

Anthologies and/or college-level introduction to political theory or political philosophy textbook such as, but not limited to:

Open Educational Resources

Ball, Terence and Dagger, Richard. "Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader." 10 ed. Routledge (2016)

Cahn, M, Steven. "Political Philosophy: The Essential Texts." 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Oxford Press (2014)

Dolbear, K and Cummings, Michael. "American Political Thought." 7<sup>th</sup> ed. CQ Press (2014)