



Historia del Pensamiento  
Político (History of  
Political Thought)  
Grado en Relaciones  
Internacionales



UNIVERSIDAD  
NEBRIJA

## Syllabus

**Course:** History of Contemporary Political Thought

**Degree:** Bachelor of International Relations

**Formation:** Compulsory

**Language:** English

**Attendance:** On-site

**Credits:** 6 ECTS

**Year:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Semester:** 1<sup>st</sup>

**Professor:** Dra. D<sup>a</sup> Victoria Rodríguez Prieto / Dr. D. Óscar Martínez Tapia

### 1. MAIN SKILLS

#### 1.1. Skills

GS1: Motivation and interest in learning in order to reach main goals.

GS 2: Improve the way of introducing and defending arguments in public.

GS 3: Work in interdisciplinary teams

GS 4 Organize and manage personal time to examine all readings and also work on a particular essay.

GS5 Develop abilities for autonomous learning

GS 6 Improve your initiative, creativity, leadership and self-improvement, which are considered as key aspects in professional context.

### 2. CONTENTS

#### 2.1. Prerequisites

None.

#### 2.2. Course outline

The main objective of this course lies in studying main currents of Western political thought and its authors, from Ancient Greece to the late twentieth century. Following this purpose, firstly, we will deal with a brief introduction about pillars of Western intellectual history. In particular, we will examine Greek and Roman political thoughts, as well as politics during the medieval period and the Renaissance phase.

After the above-mentioned introduction, we shall analyse the Enlightenment through the most relevant liberal theorists. Special emphasis will be given to economic thought and the concept of the social contract. We will then turn to Utopian Socialism which we will let us compare and contrast its legacy in modern socialist thought.

In 19th century, Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection and its impact on Social Sciences should be studied in order to examine human being inside of the natural order. In opposition to Darwinism stand, we will concentrate on the Scientific Socialism in which readings will include Marx, Engels and Lenin.

Likewise, we shall underline the most significant debates about Social Democracy, Welfare State, Privatization, Institutionalism and Development. Latter issues are at the core of present political discussions or International Relations.

To conclude, the course serves to pursue the objective of persuading students to reflect and think about most relevant currents of political thought, critically. Thereby, they could acquire knowledge of issues at stake, which is crucial in the field of International Relations.

### 2.3. Syllabus

<p><b>1. Ancient Political Thought</b> Main Greek (Plato, Aristotle and so on) and Roman authors</p> <p><b>2- .Christian Philosophy and Machiavelli</b> St. Augustine, Luther, Calvin <i>The Prince</i></p> <p><b>3. Social contract</b> Hobbes, liberalism, Kant and Rousseau</p> <p><b>4. Socialism and Anarchism</b> Utopian socialism (such as Owen), Marxism, anarchism and Social Democracy</p> <p><b>5. Nationalism</b> J. G Von Herder and J- E Renan</p> <p><b>6. Elitism and masses</b> Pareto, Mosca and R. Michels</p> <p><b>7. Totalitarianism</b> Fascism and Nazism</p> <p><b>8. Structuralism and post-structuralism</b> Sausurre and Lèvi Strauss</p> <p><b>9. Existentialism</b> J. P. Sastre</p> <p><b>10. Feminism as apolitical theory</b> S. de Beauvoir, K. Millet, R. Morgan</p> <p><b>11. Globalization thoughts</b> Giddens and so on</p>
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### 2.4. Academic activities

During the course, some of the following activities, practices, reports or projects may be developed:

Activity (AD1): Practices consist in real implementation of certain issues discussed in every lecture both, in individual and working groups. Each working groups will have to focus on a specific case selection an, later, main outcomes will be defended in class.

### 2.5. Formation activities

Type of activity	6 ECTS - 150 Hours - 50 % class attendance
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Theoretical lessons	42 hours – 100% attendance
Tutorials	15 hours – 80% attendance
Practical assignments	27,5 hours– 33% attendance
Individual and working groups' contributions	50 hours – 0% attendance
Participation in academic discussions	9 hours – 50% attendance
Exam	7,5 hours – 100% attendance

### 3. EVALUATION SYSTEM

#### 3.1. Grading system

The final grading system will be set numerically, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 of R.D. 1125/2003, of 5 September 2003 (Boletín Oficial del Estado, September 18), which establishes the European Credit System and the grading system for official university degrees and their validity throughout the national territory.

The final grading system will be set numerically as follows:

- 0 - 4,9 Fail
- 5,0 - 6,9 Pass/Good
- 7,0 - 8,9 Very Good
- 9,0 - 10 Outstanding

Those students who get 9.0 or more, they could obtain the maximum grade with honours.

#### 3.2. Evaluation criteria

##### Regular evaluation

Evaluation system	Proportion
Attitude and classroom participation	10%
Guided academic activities	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	50%

##### Secondary evaluation

Evaluation system	Proportion
Final examination	80%
Guided academic activities	20%

#### 3.3. Requirements

##### Minimum Score

In order to weighted average, students must obtain any score higher than 5 (lower than it, it is considered a fail) on the final exam.

##### Attendance

In order to pass this course successfully, students will have to attend a minimum of 75% of required hours. Otherwise, they could be denied the right to take the exam.

##### Writing guidleness

Particular attention will be paid to essays, pieces of research and exams, both content and

presentation concerning grammatical and stylistic aspects. The non-compliance of a minimum requirement could be to the detriment of final score.

### 3.4. Academic misconduct: plagiarism

Nebrija University doesn't accept plagiarism. Basically, it consists in taking credit for someone else's work. Examples of plagiarism include turning in a paper written by someone else, or using parts of a book or article without acknowledging the source. If someone plagiarizes, it will be considered a serious misconduct and, therefore, corrective measures included in the Student Handbook policies could be implemented.

## 4. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- McClelland, J.S., A History of Western Political Thought, Routledge, New York, 1996.
- Morrow, J. A History of Political Thought, A Thematic Introduction, New York University Press, New York, 1998.
- POCOCK, J.G.A., Political Thought and History. Essays on Theory and Method, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Sabine, George H. History of Political Theory., Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1950.
- WOLLIN, Sheldon S., Politics and Vision. Continuity and Innovation in Western Political Thought, Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2004.

Additional reading will be handed in or uploaded to the virtual campus.

### Another sources of information

It is advisable the handing of scientific journals. In particularly the following:

Foreign Policy International Organization International Security International Studies Quarterly  
Journal of Common Market Studies Journal of International Political Theory Política Exterior  
Review of International Studies Revista CIDOB d'Affers Internacionals Revista de Estudios  
Políticos Revista Española de Derecho Internacional or Survival The British Journal of Politics

Likewise, it is recommendable to access and read international media like:

EUobserver  
Le Monde Diplomatique  
Newsweek The Economist  
The Guardian  
Times

The following Yearbooks could be useful, too:

Anuario Akal de estado del mundo  
Anuario El Mundo  
Anuario El País  
Anuario La Vanguardia  
SIPRI Yearbook

Finally, we suggest to consult academic institutions or think tanks' web pages and also to read on-line publications. Some of the most relevant in the field of IR are the following:

British International Studies Association  
Chatham House  
Council on Foreign Relations  
CSIS Washington  
EUISS  
European Council on Foreign Relations  
IFRI

IISS

International Political Studies Association International Studies Association LSE  
Real Instituto Elcano