

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY – CENTRAL ASIA  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
POLITICAL THEORY  
ICP 280

FALL SEMESTER 2013

**TIME:** Lecture Monday, 10'50  
Seminar: Thursday 8'00, 9'25, 1050

**COURSE INSTRUCTORS:**

**Chris Rickleton, M.A., The University of St Andrews, Scotland, Assistant Professor.**  
**Emil Dzhuraev, Ph.D., The University of Maryland, USA. Assoc. Prof.**

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Office Hours: TBA

**Course Description:** Our journey is from the conceptualized 'polis' or city-state of ancient Athens to the fully functioning democratic nation state that serves as our contemporary model for analysis. Along the way, students will witness continuity, modification and conflict as parts of an ongoing discourse between man and his surrounding environment.

The course is divided into four parts. The first reflects on the basic unit of political power, the state, and the nature of power itself. Then, a discussion of justice, liberty and equality will follow. The third considers modern democracy and ideologies that have purported to rival it, while a fourth and final part is devoted to crucial and emergent issues within the modern democratic framework itself; democratization as process, multiculturalism and feminism.

**Course Objectives:** Students will be expected to develop a grasp of basic political theory and assess the relevance of individual thinkers in the contemporary setting. Students will additionally gain valuable written and presentation skills over the duration of the course. As this is an ICP course, students will be required to consider theories in their relationship to one another and recognize compatibilities and antagonisms between various thinkers.

This course is intended to acquaint students with some of the most important ideals and ideologies introduced throughout the discourse of humankind. Themes such as the state, justice, liberty and equality will be considered in terms of the assumptions they provide about human nature, and the challenges they continue to pose to politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

**Assignments**

**10 % Attendance & Participation** 5 absences (6 mins late counts as an absence) = X

**10% Presentation** Sign up for short presentations in week one.

**15% Mid Term Exam** Guidelines distributed in advance

**15% Final Exam** Guidelines distributed in advance.

**50% - Total weight of written assignments, which are outlined and governed by the separate component of the syllabus under "Writing in the Discipline" (WID) rubric.**

**Important ICP rules**

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are unfamiliar with the definition of plagiarism, please read AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

The AUCA will soon adapt changes into the policy on academic honesty. The new rules will be explained to the class, but students should keep in mind that if a student is caught with a case of intentional plagiarism, the softest punishment would be an F for the assignment. If a student was caught with plagiarism in past, she/he may face F for the course, suspension from the university.

Seminar tutor will provide a special session on plagiarism and ways to avoid it. Whenever you have questions or doubts, simply approach instructors and ask. We will always be happy to explain.

### **Late submissions**

Students are expected to duly respect all deadlines for submitting papers, essays and other types of homework. All due dates are announced beforehand, and are believed to provide sufficient time for preparing and submitting required works. The importance of respecting deadlines is related to 1) creating equal conditions for all students; 2) better organization of overall teaching and learning process.

Late submissions will be penalized, with deduction of 10% of the grade per day. Any submission which is late for more than 10 minutes will be considered as one-day late paper.

In cases of force majeure circumstances (serious illness etc.), a student is expected to provide documented evidence. ICP department reserves the right to check these evidences.

### **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones must be turned-off during the class. This is the demonstration of your respect for the class and contribution to creating a better learning atmosphere

### Course Calendar

#### **The State and Political Power**

**Week 1** (Sept. 3-6) Ancient Greece, Socrates and the Polis

**Week 2** (Sept 10 - Sept 13) Plato *The Republic* (pp. 19-74)

**Week 3** (Sept. 17-20) Thucydides, *The Melian Dialogue* AVAILABLE VIA E-COURSE

**Week 4** (Sept 24-Sept 27) Machiavelli, *The Prince* (pp 283-301)

**Week 5** (Oct 1-4) Social Contract

Hobbes, Thomas *Leviathan*(section in the reader)

Locke, John *The Second Treatise on Government* (section in the reader)

#### **Key Concepts in Political Theory**

**Week 6** (Oct 8-11) Liberty

Mill, John Stuart *On Liberty* (section in the reader)

**Week 7** (Oct 15-18) Equality

Rousseau, J-J. *The Social Contract* (selections)

Recommended: O Brian, William E. *Equality in Law and Philosophy* (pp. 1-38)

*Equality and Liberty in Political Theories* (pp. 115-146)

**Week 8** (Oct 22-25) Justice

Rawls, John "Justice as Fairness" AVAILABLE VIA E-COURSE

"Social Justice", in Wolff, J, *Introduction to Political Philosophy*

Nozick, Robert *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (pp 1-10) AVAILABLE VIA E-COURSE

**Week 9** (Oct 29- Nov 1) Revision Lecture

**MID-TERM EXAM IS ON 29.10.13**

#### **Democracy and Its Challengers**

**Week 10** (Nov 5 - 8) Modern Conceptions and Justifications of Democracy

Dahl, Robert: *On Democracy* (sections in reader)

Barber, B. *Strong Democracy* (excerpts) TBM Available Via E-course

**Week 11** (Nov 12 - 15) The Marxist Challenge

Marx, Karl and Engels, Frederick *The Communist Manifesto* pp 1-28 AVAILABLE VIA E-COURSE

**Week 12** (Nov 19 - 22) Individualism, Conformism, and Democracy  
Rand, Ayn "The Virtue of Selfishness"  
Wolin, Sheldon, "Fugitive Democracy"

**Contemporary Issues in Political Theory**

**Week 13** (Nov 26 - 29) What is a Good Citizen Today?  
Putnam, R. "Bowling Alone"  
Boyte, Harry, "Democracy as Public Works"

**Week 14** (Dec 3 - 6) Multiculturalism  
Taylor, Charles, "Politics of Recognition"

**Week 15** (Dec 10 - 13) Feminism  
Wolff, Victoria, Chapter 6 *Individualism, Justice, Feminism* (pp. 196-221)

**Week 16** (Dec 17 - 20) **Final Exam - Date to be determined**

**GRADING SCALE:**

100 - 96 = A	"excellent"	70 - 66 = C	
95 - 91 = A -		65 - 61 = C -	
90 - 86 = B+		60 - 56 = D+	"poor"
85 - 81 = B	"good"	55 - 51 = D	
80 - 76 = B -		50 - 46 = D -	
75 - 71 = C+	"average"	45 - lower = F	"failure"