



Introduction to Western Political Thought

Course Code			
Class Times	Mon/Wed/Thu 13:00-16:00	Classroom	TBA
Equivalent Year Level	1-3	Course Credit	3
Instructor I	Sungwoo PARK	Sessions	1-15
Office	Bld.16 Rm.515	Email	swplato@snu.ac.kr

□ Instructor's Profile

	<p>Sungwoo Park Professor, Ph. D. Department of Political Science and International Relations</p> <p>Sungwoo Park has taught International Political Thought and Global Justice at SNU since 2013. He also taught at Chung-Ang University (2005-2013). He was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago (2011-2012)</p>
<p><u>Education</u> Ph.D., Political Science, University of Chicago M.A., International Relations, Seoul National University B.A., International Relations, Seoul National University</p>	
<p><u>Expertise</u> Classical Political Thought, International Political Thought, History of Political Thought</p>	
<p><u>Most Recent Works</u> “The Problematic Character of the City-Soul Analogy in Plato’s Republic” <i>The Journal of Greco-Roman Studies</i>, Vol. 54, No. 3 (2015). “Philosophical Foundation of the Concept of National Interest and Philosophical(Socratic) Pursuit of National Interest in Reading Plato’s ‘Alcibiades’” <i>The Korean Journal of International Studies</i>, Vol. 54, No. 3 (2014) (in Korean) “A Political Philosophy-based Critique of Leo Strauss’s Responsibility for Iraq War” <i>Journal of International and Area Studies</i>, Vol. 21, No. 1 (2012) (in Korean)</p>	



□ Course Information

Course Description	<p>What are we supposed to learn from so-called “classics” of western political thought? Are the political teachings of the classics still valid in the contemporary political life? In this course we will think over these questions while reading closely well-known yet still controversial classical texts in the history of western political thought. Our readings will cover from ancient to modern political thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau. Although our readings are limited to selective materials of those thinkers, the readings will introduce us to the major political issues in the history of western political thought and, at the same time, enable us to understand the most important and persistent topics in the contemporary political life.</p> <p>In general, when we read the ancient authors, Plato and Aristotle, we try to examine the questions as follows: what is proper relationship between politics and philosophy?; what is the best regime?; what is the nature of justice?; what is the role of rhetoric in both politics and philosophy? When we turn to modern thinkers, we try to understand the specific framework of modern society with the specific emphasis on the relationship between individuals and the political community. How do modern people understand the emergence of political society? What do modern individuals give up and preserve to make possible the emergence of political society? In addressing those questions we will understand the typical modern political concepts such as liberty, equality, individual rights, sovereignty, and social contract, all of which we share as our political values.</p> <p>Basically, this course is an introductory one. So no background knowledge is required. The class format is a combination of lecture and discussion. Readings are relatively small but students are required to read the assigned readings before coming to the class for the discussion.</p>
Course Evaluation	<p>Attendance 20%, Class participation 20%, Midterm exam 30% Final exam 30%</p> <p>Attendance will be important for keeping up with class. Good attendance and active participation will be reflected in grade.</p>
Course Materials	No purchase is required. All reading materials are hand-outs
Class Policy	<i>(Insert as necessary)</i>
Etc. <i>(e.g. Guidelines)</i>	



☐ Course Schedule

Session 1 - Topic: Introduction

No reading assignment

Ancient Political Thought

Session 2

Plato's Apology, Crito

Session 3

Plato's Republic (I, II)

Session 4

Plato's Republic (III, IV)

Session 5

Plato's Republic (V, VI, VII)

Session 6

Aristotle, Politics Book 1, 2

Session 7

Aristotle, Politics, Books 3, 7

Session 8 *Mid-term Exam*

Modern Political Thought

Session 9

Hobbes, Leviathan (chs. 1~4, 13, 14)

Session 10

Hobbes, Leviathan (chs. 17, 18, 21, 26, 29, 31)

Session 11

Locke, On the Second Treatise (chs. 1~6)

Session 12

Locke, On the Second Treatise (chs. 7~9, 11, 14, 19)

Session 13

Rousseau, On the Origins of Inequality (entire)

Session 14

Rousseau, On Social Contract (parts)

Session 15 *Final Exam*