

Course	Political theory
Course code	PolZ1014
Scientific discipline	Politics
Scientific sub-branch	Political science
Credits	2
ECTS credits	3
Total number of study room hours	32
<i>Number of lecture hours</i>	32
<i>Seminars and practical work hours</i>	
<i>Number of hours of laboratory work</i>	
<i>Number of hours allocated for the term paper</i>	

Author of the course (name last name, department, position)

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Background knowledge (course title, part of the program where the course is to be completed)

none

Course abstract:

The course is intended for students of the study program "Law".
The course introduces categories and concepts of politics (state, political system, power, etc.), its theoretical problems, scientific research methods and methodological approaches. At the same time, the subject matter independently analyzes political issues in the historical and philosophical dimensions.

Results:

- are able to independently find the information necessary for the analysis of a particular situation, with particular emphasis on the possibilities and limitations of information analysis and use;
- Gain knowledge on political science and global realpolitik topical issues:
 - are able to critically analyze international and regional political developments, discussing current political issues;
 - are aware about the external and internal influencing factors of national foreign and domestic policies;
 - are able to express and defend persistent opinions using academic and other sources;
 - are able to discuss national development alternatives, personality polices and individuals' place in the political process.

Students develop **academic** expertise:

- understand political terminology;
- show knowledge about the regularities of socio-political processes;
- are ready to draw conclusions about the role of socio-political processes in shaping political nations;
- understand and are able to explain the interaction of the political process in the functioning of social processes.

Students develop skills that go hand in hand with **academic expertise** and **practical** action:

- demonstrate skill in searching, selecting, analyzing and comparing information and use in the analysis of a particular situation, in a reasoned discussion;
- demonstrate skill in selecting study materials and understanding the basic principles of their use.

Students improve their ability to **apply academic expertise in value-oriented behavior**:

- demonstrate a critical understanding of transformation of politics and state concepts under the influence of political regimes and are able to conceptually and reasonably judge the controversial issues of political philosophy.

During the implementation of the course students:

- Gain an understanding of the history of political philosophy;

Contents of the course:

During the course, an overview of the political thoughts from ancient Greece to the present will be given. Basically, the course is based on discussing ideas of Plato, Aristotle, Saint Augustine of Hippo, Niccolò Machiavelli, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Montesquieu, JeanJacques Rousseau, Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche. The lessons will include the debate on human nature, the ideal political regime, understanding of justice, as well as the categories "equality", "freedom", "community", and "natural rights". At the same time, a comparative analysis will be carried out between the categories "religion and politics", "public interest and security", and "freedom and rights".

Plan of the course:

Lecture themes (32 hours)

1. State philosophical theory and research methodology. Content of state science theory. Methods applied in state science.
2. Understanding of the concepts 'society' and 'state' coined by philosophers. Social culture and social norms.
3. The doctrinal understanding of the state. What is a "state"?
4. Diversity of understanding the origin of the state.
5. Theological theories of the emergence of the state.
6. Historical theories of the emergence of the state.
7. Public contract theory of the emergence of the state. Organic state theory.
8. Patrimonial theory of the emergence of the state. Patriarchal theory of the emergence of the state.
9. Marxism about the origin and essence of the state. Interpretations of Marx's theory. Neo-Marxism.
10. The nature and characteristics of the state. Philosophers' interpretation of the concepts ethos, people, and nation.
11. State power and power division theory. Power and violence. Freedom and Order.
12. The concept and objectives of state power. Separation of powers theory.
13. Forms of the state and its forming elements: the form of government, the form of the state system, the political regime. Plato's "ideal state" being not ideal.
14. State Functions and objectives. Concept and classification of state function. Realization of state functions. The role of civil servants in the realization of state functions.
15. The concept and features of a state governed by law. Content of the idea of a state under the rule of law and its evolution. The concept and features of a state governed by law.
16. Civil society and the rule of law. Interaction between state and law. Correlation of State and Law.

Requirements for obtaining credit points:

Participation in lectures - 30%, differentiated test - 70%

After successfully completing the course, students show:

Academic competences:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of national awareness, the rule of law, state forms and functions, as well as interaction with other social phenomena.
2. Obtain theoretical knowledge about the subject and methodology of state theory.
3. Understand and analyze state forms and functions as well as the evolution of perceptions of the state.

Reference literature (01-study materials):

1. Irvine, Andrew David (2008). *Socrates on Trial: A play based on Aristophanes' Clouds and Plato's Apology, Crito, and Phaedo, adapted for modern performance*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
2. http://www.universaltheosophy.com/pdf-library/1804_The-Works-of-Plato-His-Fifty-FiveDialogues-and-Twelve-Epistles_vols-1-5.pdf
3. <http://filosof.historic.ru/books/item/f00/s00/z0000353/>
4. Davis A. Young, «The Contemporary Relevance of Augustine's View of Creation» from *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* 40.1
5. Гуссерль Эд. *Собрание сочинений. Том I. Феноменология внутреннего сознания времени = Zur Phaenomenologie Des Innern Zeitbewusstseins*. М.2008.
6. Ousselin, Edward (2009). "French Political Thought from Montesquieu to Tocqueville: Liberty in a Levelled Society? (review)". *French Studies: A Quarterly Review*. 63 (2): 219.
7. Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Book 11, Chapter 6, "Of the Constitution of England." Archived 28 September 2013 at the Wayback Machine Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia Library, Retrieved 1 August 2012
8. Najemy, John M. (2010). *The Cambridge Companion to Machiavelli*. Cambridge University Press. p. 259.
9. Montesquieu (1689–1755) is a rival for this role. Mikko Lahtinen (2009). *Politics and Philosophy: Niccolò Machiavelli and Louis Althusser's Aleatory Materialism*. BRILL. pp. 115–16.
10. "Spinoza's Political Philosophy". *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University. 2013. Retrieved 19 March 2011.
11. Kenneth Clatterbaugh, *The Causation Debate in Modern Philosophy, 1637-1739*, Routledge, 2014, p. 69.
12. Hobbes, Thomas (1682). *Tracts of Mr. Thomas Hobbs of Malmsbury: Containing I. Behemoth, the history of the causes of the civil wars of England, from 1640. to 1660. printed from the author's own copy: never printed (but with a thousand faults) before. II. An answer to Arch-bishop Bramhall's book, called the Catching of the Leviathan: never printed before. III. An historical narration of heresie, and the punishment thereof: corrected by the true copy. IV. Philosophical problems, dedicated to the King in 1662. but never printed before*. W. Crooke. p. 339.
13. <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/authors/search/?query=Marx,+Karl>
14. Draper, Hal, *Karl Marx's Theory of Revolution* (4 volumes) Monthly Review Press

Literature (02-additional literature):

1. Chalfant, H.P., LaBeff, E. *Understanding People and Social Life*. New York, etc., 1988.
2. Chernilo, D. *A Social Theory of the Nation-State. The Political Forms of Modernity beyond Methodological Nationalism*. London: Routledge, 2007.
3. Chesters, G., Welsh, I. *Complexity and Social Movements. Multitudes at the Edge of Chaos*. London: Routledge, 2007.
4. Chilcote, R.H. *Theories of Comparative Politics*. Westview Press Inc. 1994.
5. Eysenck, S., Chechabi, H.E., eds. *Robert Michaels, Political Sociology and the Future of*

Democracy. [S.l.], Transaction Pub.

6. Goodin, R.E., Klingemann, H.-D., ed. *A New Handbook of Political Science*. Oxford University Press, 1998.
7. Grundmann, R., Stehr, N., eds. *Society*. London: Routledge, 2008.
8. Lane, R. *Political Science in Theory and Practice. The Politics' Model*. New York, etc., 1997.
9. Pettigrew, A.M. *The Politics of Organizational Decision Making*. Oxford University Press, 2008.
10. Wallace, H. Europeanisation and Globalisation: Complimentary or Contradictory Trends? // *New Political Economy*, Vol.5, 2000, No 3, pp. 369–382.

Literature (03-recommended periodical literature):

1. <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato/>
2. http://rebels-library.org/files/foucault_hermeneutics.pdf

What study programs and their parts (A, B, C, D) are relevant to this course:

Study program “Law” part B

Name of the course in English:

Political theory

Abstract of the course in English:

Students are acquainted with the main categories, concepts, and notions (politics, state, political system, power, etc.), as well as with theoretical problems, research methods, and methodology of political science. The course of instruction provides students with basic knowledge of the main research areas in political sociology, develops students’ skills to analyze politics independently in accordance with the level achieved by modern social science.