POL 302 : Political Ideas

A. Course Description

Credits: 4

WRIT 131 Writing I or equivalent, or have instructor's permission.

Prerequisites: WRIT 131 Writing I or equivalent, or have instructor's permission.

Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/Week:

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course examines political ideas from a variety of historical, cultural and social contexts. It includes perspectives from both the "mainstream" of traditional European-American political thought, and perspectives from other cultures, ideologies and traditions that often challenge the assumptions of dominant thinking in both the United States and the international community. The goal is to provide students with the understanding necessary to evaluate U.S. political institutions and ideas, and participate as citizens.

B. Course Effective Dates: 08/01/1998 - 09/05/1999 09/06/1999 - Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Analyze differing philosophical interpretation of such political concepts as democracy, equality, liberty and justice at an upper division college level.
2. Create and articulate one's own perspective through reflection and synthesis of contending points of view.
3. Critically analyze and evaluate original texts from selected political thinkers.
4. Evaluate arguments that political thinkers have used to justify political beliefs and programs at an upper division level.
5. Write clearly and analytically at a level consistent with upper division university standards.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies

None

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
4. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

G. Special Information