



SELF PROGRAM 2019/2020

European Thought: From the 16th century to the 21st century

Michael Fodor

Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 2,5 hours

Teaching period: fall 2019

Course description:

The aim is to provide a panorama of European thought in the areas of political theory, political economy, religion, moral philosophy and political ecology (from the 16th century to today). For each area, a pair of thinkers will be read and discussed. Each session will be organized as follows: i) lecture by the professor including an introduction to the author of the next week's reading; ii) class discussion of the reading. Each week's reading will be in the 20-40 page range.

The schedule of lectures/readings is as follows:

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	Political Theory: Machiavelli
Week 3	Political Theory: Thomas More

Week 4	Political Economy: Adam Smith
Week 5	Political Economy: Karl Marx
Week 6	Midterm
Week 7	Moral Philosophy: Kant
Week 8	Moral Philosophy: Mill
Week 9	Religion: Calvin
Week 10	Religion: Pope Francis
Week 11	Political ecology: Bruno Latour
Week 12	Political ecology: Ulrich Beck

Prerequisites:

None

Course objectives:

The goal of this course is to provide students with a panorama of European thought from the 16th century up to today, across five disciplines: political theory, political economy, religion, moral philosophy and political ecology. Students will acquire knowledge of:

- the major issues, players and positions in the five disciplines
- the evolution of Europe and European thought from the 16th century to today

Assessment:

- 1) In-class midterm (40%)
- 2) In-class final (60%)

Attendance:

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise no mark will be given. An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

Bibliography:

All readings will be available on the electronic classroom site. The extracts will be from:

Machiavelli: *The Prince* and *Discourses*

More: *Utopia*

Adam Smith: *The Wealth of Nations* and *Theory of Moral Sentiments*

Karl Marx: *Communist Manifesto*, *Capital* and *German Ideology*

Kant: *Critique of Practical Reason* and *Metaphysics of Morals*

Mill: *Utilitarianism* and *On Liberty*

Calvin: *Institutes of Christian Religion*

Pope Francis: *Encyclicals*

Bruno Latour: *We Have Never Been Modern* and *Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime*

Ulrich Beck: *Risk Society* and *Ecological Politics in an Age of Risk*