

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Political Science

FHEQ Level: 3

Course Title: Foundations of Politics

Course Code: PLT 3100

Course Leader: Dr Michael F. Keating

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course/Course Description:

Introduces students to the study of politics by defining, exploring and evaluating the basic concepts of politics through the analysis of modern and contemporary ideologies. It outlines some of the central issues in the study of politics such as the nature of the political itself; power and authority in the state; political obligation; the rights and duties of the citizen; liberty and equality; economic systems and modes of production through the scope of central political ideologies such as liberalism, Marxism, conservatism, feminism, multiculturalism and environmentalism.

Pre-requisites: N/A

Aims and Objectives:

- to introduce students to the study of politics by exploring some of the key concepts and ideologies that inform political debate
- to introduce students to the work of a range of political thinkers and their central ideas
- to encourage a critical and analytical approach to a range of reading material, including primary texts
- to provide a sound conceptual base for future study of political ideas, institutions and behaviour

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

3A(i); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates an understanding of core political ideologies and concepts, and of the main approaches to the study of political science
- Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communication arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms
- Demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own
- Completes obligations with regards to assigned work

Indicative Content:

- Key concepts in politics
- Basic approaches to the study of politics
- Modern political ideologies
- Contemporary political ideologies
- Historical development of political ideologies and concepts
- Contemporary challenges to the traditional study of politics

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be **Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating**. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a

