

COURSE DETAIL

THE HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL IDEAS I: FROM PLATO TO C1700

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

King's College London

Program(s)

King's College London

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Philosophy History

UCEAP Course Number

174

UCEAP Course Suffix

A

UCEAP Official Title

THE HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL IDEAS I: FROM PLATO TO C1700

UCEAP Transcript Title

HIST/WEST POL IDEAS

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course introduces students to the key texts, arguments, and controversies in European political thought from ancient Greece to the end of the 17th century. This is based on the close reading of classic and complex texts, situated in their broader intellectual and historical context. A single canonical thinker – such as Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes or Locke – will typically be central to each week's teaching, but these thinkers are read in relation to the political environments that shaped them and the debates in which they participated. Where possible these key thinkers are considered alongside the work of other thinkers as well as other relevant primary texts. Students explore the early development of key ideas and issues – such as kingship, natural rights', republicanism, and the relationship between church and state – that have formed, and continue to form, the conceptual bedrock of Western social and political debate.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

5AAH1001

Host Institution Course Title

THE HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL IDEAS I: FROM PLATO TO C1700

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/abroad/module-options/the-history-of-western-political-id...>

Host Institution Campus**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree**

Host Institution Department

History

Course Last Reviewed

2024-2025

[Print](#)