COURSE DETAIL

CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
London School of Economics

Program(s)
London School of Economics

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science

UCEAP Course Number
157

UCEAP Course Suffix
Y

UCEAP Official Title
CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

UCEAP Transcript Title
CONTEMP POL THEORY

UCEAP Quarter Units
12.00

UCEAP Semester Units

8.00

Course Description

This course provides an advanced introduction to contemporary political theory. Both parts of the course engage normative- and critical-theoretical texts by considering present-day political and social problems. Part One investigates political-theoretical concepts and arguments in view of increasingly precarious social and economic conditions for much of the world's population. What norms of justice, equality, and liberty might justify efforts to redistribute material resources? How have recent changes in capitalism affected human desires with regard to work, work's products, and work-based relationships, and what new forms of freedom or submission might such altered desires promote? Part Two confronts pressing questions that stem from climate change, global migration, and racial and colonial violence. What shifts in modern notions of nature-human relations might climate change spur and under what political conditions would people respond to these ethical imperatives? What obligations does a political society have to migrants and what new conceptions of political agency might migrants' work and political ventures suggest? What are the sources of colonial and racial violence, and what ethical and political commitments should anti-racist and decolonizing responses entail? Teaching 15 hours of lectures and 10 hours of classes in the MT. 15 hours of lectures and 10 hours of classes in the LT. 1 hour and 30 minutes of lectures in the ST. There will be reading weeks in MT Week 6 and LT Week 6. Formative coursework Students are expected to submit two formative essays in MT and a mock exam paper in LT. The course requires students to organize their workloads, to complete readings in advance of lectures, and to prepare to participate actively in seminars. The course thus emphasizes the development of verbal and written communication abilities. Students also should expect to tackle basic questions about what it means to write political theory by exploring tensions and affinities between normative/ethical and critical-theoretical approaches. Indicative reading John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice"; Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice"; Kathi Weeks, "The Problem with Work"; Jacques Rancière, "Disagreement"; David Schlosberg, "Environmental Justice and the New Pluralism"; Joseph Carens, "The Ethics of Immigration"; Michel Foucault, "Society Must Be Defended"; Mohandas K. Gandhi, "Hind Swaraj"; James Baldwin, "The Fire Next Time" Assessment Exam (60%,

duration: 2 hours) in the summer exam period. Essay (40%, 2000 words) in the LT. GENERAL COURSE STUDENTS ONLY: The Class Summary Grade for General Course students will be calculated as follows:15% class participation, 50% assessed coursework, 30% formative coursework (15% per assignment), and 5% attendance.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
GV262

Host Institution Course Title
CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
LSE

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Government

Course Last Reviewed

Print