

# COURSE DETAIL

## HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

**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

**UCEAP Course Number**

172

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

**UCEAP Transcript Title**

WESTERN POL THOUGHT

**UCEAP Quarter Units**

6.00

**UCEAP Semester Units**

4.00

## Course Description

This course introduces students to some central figures in the history of political thought: Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx, and Schmitt. Students look at why they wrote what they wrote, what they meant, and how well their arguments work. They ask why they give different answers to questions such as: What does it mean to be truly free? Is democracy possible or desirable? Should we educate citizens, or take them as they are? Are there absolute moral truths, and what sort of politics should we have in light of that? What rights do we have? What place should religion have in politics? Should citizens dedicate themselves to the state? The course particularly suits students who enjoy political theory and the history of political thought. There is *a lot* of reading, and much of it is very challenging. Great emphasis is put on understanding primary texts, which are usually dense and difficult.

### Language(s) of Instruction

English

### Host Institution Course Number

5SSPP202

### Host Institution Course Title

HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

### Host Institution Campus

King's College London

### Host Institution Faculty

### Host Institution Degree

### Host Institution Department

Political Economy

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