

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 Course Details

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/abroad/module-options/history-of-political-thought-1>

Host Institution Campus

King's College London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Political Economy

Course Last Reviewed

2022-2023

[Print](#)