

COURSE DETAIL

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Country

Korea, South

Host Institution

Yonsei University

Program(s)

Yonsei University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science

UCEAP Course Number

180

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

UCEAP Transcript Title

MEDIEVAL WEST POL

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course approaches themes such as justice, citizenship, and the constitution of the state—as we experience and reflect on them within a liberal democratic system—through close readings of texts in ancient political thought.

Returning to ancient Greece, often regarded as the birthplace of both democracy and justice, we examine Socratic argumentation, the death of Socrates, and the visions of a just state as imagined by Plato and Aristotle.

Through this exploration, we aim to envision what a just democratic society might look like today.

Topics include The Meaning of Ancient Political Thought – Why Do We Study Ancient Political Thought?; The Relationship Between Tradition and Philosophy – Taking a Step Back from Socrates; The Problem of the Divine – The Search for a Standard; Why Socrates Refused the City's Commands; The Apology of Socrates; The Problem of Justice – Understanding Thrasymachus' Claim that Justice Is the Advantage of the Strong; What Kind of Citizens Constitute a Just State?; Why Is the Philosopher-King Necessary?; The Problem of the City-State and Slavery – The Meaning of the Polis and Its Members; The City-State and the Citizen – The Ideal City-State?; The Persistence of the City-State – How Does a City-State Endure or Decline?; and Justice, Virtue, and Happiness – The Aim of the Political Community.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

POL2101

Host Institution Course Title

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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