

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Country

Italy

Host Institution

University of Bologna

Program(s)

University of Bologna

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

122

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

UCEAP Transcript Title

POLITICL PHILOSOPHY

UCEAP Quarter Units

12.00

UCEAP Semester Units

8.00

Course Description

Political Philosophy is conceived as the application of philosophical investigation to politics and thus as a study of the contribution that philosophy may give to political practice. This implies both a clarification of the terms used in our everyday political vocabulary and an attempt at designing models of a just society. The course provides students with the following abilities: a) notions on methodology in historical investigation; b) ability to analytically read a text while at the same time situating it into the historical and linguistic context of the age; c) knowledge of the perennial tasks of political philosophy; d) an examination of a specific topic: the origins of democracy. The course is divided into two modules: **1.**

Relativism and its Discontents: this module examines the sophist Protagoras, the first coherent relativist, who argued that "man is the measure of all things", and the answers to his relativism elaborated by Plato and Aristotle; and how 20th century philosophers revived those positions, specifically investigating Richard Rorty, Leo Strauss, and Alasdair MacIntyre. The first class is devoted to a clarification of the notion of 'political philosophy' and to an account of the methodology in the history of political thought. **2. The just society: unending quest:** this module is devoted to the search for a just society, reading John Rawls, the author who put back the notion of justice at the center of political philosophy and who wrote the milestone treatment on the subject in the 20th century.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

78003

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://www.unibo.it/en/study/course-units-transferable-skills-moocs/course-uni...>

Host Institution Campus

BOLOGNA

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree**

LT in PHILOSOPHY

Host Institution Department

PHILOSOPHY

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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