

# Course Outline

**School / Portfolio:** Faculty of Education and Arts

**Course Title:** MODERN WESTERN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

**Course ID:** PHSGL2011

**Credit Points:** 15.00

**Prerequisite(s):** (PHILO1002 or PHILO1004 or BAFND1001 AND any Introductory level course )

**Co-requisite(s):** Nil

**Exclusion(s):** Nil

**ASCED Code:** 090305

**Program Level:**

AQF Level of Program						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Level</b>						
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	✓	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	■	■	■

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Knowledge:**

- K1.** Analyse key concepts and theoretical paradigms in modern Western political philosophy
- K2.** Appraise the role played by political philosophy at specific historical moments and cultural contexts, as well as in contemporary life

**Skills:**

- S1.** Evaluate theoretical paradigms in political philosophy through close readings of texts
- S2.** Contrast and compare differing positions and traditions in political philosophy

**Application of knowledge and skills:**

- A1.** Present one’s views on political philosophy in verbal and written form in tutorial discussions and in sustained academic writing
- A2.** Critique traditions, events, and theorists in political philosophy through academic writing based on independent research and the use of relevant secondary literature

**Course Content:**

Topics may include:

- Sovereignty and violence
- The conservative tradition
- Negative and positive liberty

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- The liberal tradition
- Labour and equality
- The socialist tradition

## Values and Graduate Attributes:

### Values:

- V1.** Respect the importance of critical and reasoned argument regarding key issues in political philosophy, including conservatism, liberalism, and socialism
- V2.** Awareness of the importance of engaging with ideas and arguments in political philosophy in a rational, open minded, yet judicial fashion
- V3.** Creative approaches to constructing arguments and developing original ideas about political theories
- V4.** Respect for the philosophical ideals of clarity and coherence: outlining one's own position on political philosophy and contemporary political issues in a confident, reasoned, clear, and articulate way
- V5.** Reflecting critically one's own ideas and the ideas of others about politics and political questions

### Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students will continuously develop skills in the analysis of philosophical concepts and arguments	High
Self Reliance	Students will build on their skills in intensive reading, personal organisation, independent study, and research	High
Engaged Citizenship	Students will develop new skills in the philosophical analysis of contemporary political debates	Medium
Social Responsibility	Students will work to gain the skills and confidence needed to be informed political thinkers and actors	Medium

## Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1 K2 S1 S2 A1	Informed and critical contributions to tutorial discussions	Participation and online discussion, assessed throughout the semester	10 - 20%
K1 K2 S1 A1 A2	Philosophical analysis of a recent political debate or argument in terms of a particular philosophical tradition	Short answer exercise, due mid semester	20 - 30 %
K1 S1 S2 A1 A2	Critical analysis of a major political theory	Major essay, due at the end of semester	30 - 40%
K1 K2 S1 S2 A1	Oral presentation on ideas and texts under discussion in the relevant week	Oral presentation	10 - 20 %

## Adopted Reference Style:

Chicago