

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## POL 315: Political Thought

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Selected reading and analysis of the major ideas and concepts that have influenced the evolution of modern political ideas. MnTC Goal 9.

### B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 06/01/1995 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Ancient Greek Political Thought
2. Aristotle and the Science of Politics
3. From Polis to Cosmopolis
4. Christendom and its Law
5. Survey of Eastern Political Theory: Confucianism and Buddhism
6. Reinvention of Sovereignty
7. Machiavelli and the Virtuous Republic
8. Social Contract: Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau
9. European Enlightenment
10. American Enlightenment
11. Conservatism
12. Varieties of Liberalism
13. Marxism and Socialism
14. Fascism and Totalitarianism
15. Nationalism and Globalization

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Correctly use and understand concepts central to the study of Political Ideas, including rights, justice, liberty, minority and majority rights, duties and privilege as we apply them to each theory studied
2. Identify major themes and authors in political theory essential to understanding modern world civilization
3. Identify the source of their own political belief system and the relationship of those ideas to others studied
4. Understand the critiques of these ideas by both authors contemporary to the movements and in the current world
5. Appreciate the effect these ideas have on the human beings who live under governments informed by them in both historical and contemporary context
6. Apply these ideas in examining their own behaviors as active citizens

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted