

HS343 Introduction Into Political Philosophy

Credit: 3-0-0-3

Approval: Approved in 2nd Senate

Prerequisite: Consent of the faculty member

Students intended for: B.Tech

Elective or Core: Elective

Semester: Odd/Even:

Course Description:

All political communities come into being not only for the sake of living, but for the sake of a way of living. Characteristic, then, of any political association is the attendant discourse on achieving the best and avoiding the worst for the community and its members. Political philosophy addresses itself to the concepts underlying political beliefs and practices, such that the clarification of concepts can yield a framework for the critical evaluation of these beliefs and practices.

Text & Reference Books:

Required Reading: Select excerpts from

Plato: The Republic

Aristotle: Politics

Machiavelli: The Prince

Recommended Reading

D.D. Raphael: Problems of Political Philosophy, London (Macmillan, rpt.) 2007.

Dorothy Pickles: Introduction to Politics, London (Methuen, rpt.) 2008.

Leo Strauss: What is Political Philosophy?, Westport/Conn. (Greenwood) 1973.

Select References

Ernst Cassirer: The Myth of the State, New Haven/New York (Yale U.P.) 1946

Machiavelli: The Prince, trs. P.Bondanella&M.Musa, Oxford/New York (O.U.P.) 1984.

Karl Marx: On Historical Materialism, from: Marx and Engels, Collected Works, New York (New York International) 1976.

Michael Oakshott: Rationalism in Politics, LSE Inaugural Lecture, London 1962.

Henry David Thoreau: On Civil Disobedience (any edition).

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi: Satyagraha, ed. Anand Hingorani, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Eric Voegelin: The New Science of Politics, Chicago 1952