# 4/1/2021

# brcc keystone logo

Baton Rouge Community College

*Academic Affairs Master Syllabus*

Date Approved: 27 April 2021

Term and Year of Implementation: Fall 2021

**Course Title:** Introduction to Political Theory

**BRCC Course Rubric:** POLI 2603

**Previous Course Rubric**: POLI 260

**Lecture Hours per week-Lab Hours per week-Credit Hours**: 3-0-3

**Per semester: Lecture Hours-Lab Hours-Instructional Contact Hours**: 45-0-45

**Louisiana Common Course Number:**

**CIP Code:** 45.1001

**Course Description:** This course offers an introduction to the field of political theory through classic and contemporary readings and selected case studies. No prior work in political theory or political science is assumed.

**Prerequisites:**  None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Suggested Enrollment Cap:** 35

**Learning Outcomes.** *Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:*

1. Critically examine the great moral and ethical questions in ancient, modern, and contemporary texts as a means to understand our own biases and beliefs.

2. Evaluate contending ideologies or approaches to political authority, the exercise of power, types of political systems in the ancient and modern texts.

3. Explain key themes such as freedom, justice, and equality as related to real social problems throughout the ages.

4. Identify problems and frame research questions relating to humans and their experience as individuals and as parts of larger social systems.

5. Define and compare the main traditions in political theory and philosophy including classical, modern, and contemporary works.

**General Education Learning Outcome(s):** This course supports the development of competency in the following area(s). Students will:

Evaluate solutions based on practical and/or ethical implications. (General Education Competency: Critical Thinking)

**Assessment Measures.** Assessment of all learning outcomes will be measured using the following methods:

1. Department-designed post-exam of 30 questions linked to student learning outcomes

2. Instructor-designed written exams will be administered throughout the semester.

3. Each instructor will give a final exam with an essay component that will be graded by use of a department rubric.

4. A research paper or other investigative project will be required, graded by a departmental rubric.

**Information to be included on the Instructor’s Course Syllabi:**

* ***Disability Statement*:** Baton Rouge Community College seeks to meet the needs of its students in many ways. See the Office of Disability Services to receive suggestions for disability statements that should be included in each syllabus.
* ***Grading:*** The College grading policy should be included in the course syllabus. Any special practices should also go here. This should include the instructor’s and/or the department’s policy for make-up work. For example in a speech course, “Speeches not given on due date will receive no grade higher than a sixty” or “Make-up work will not be accepted after the last day of class”.
* ***Attendance Policy*:** Include the overall attendance policy of the college. Instructors may want to add additional information in individual syllabi to meet the needs of their courses.
* ***General Policies*:** Instructors’ policy on the use of things such as beepers and cell phones and/or hand held programmable calculators should be covered in this section.
* ***Cheating and Plagiarism*:** This must be included in all syllabi and should include the penalties for incidents in a given class. Students should have a clear idea of what constitutes cheating in a given course.
* ***Safety Concerns:*** In some courses, this may be a major issue. For example, “No student will be allowed in the lab without safety glasses”. General statements such as, “Items that may be harmful to one’s self or others should not be brought to class”.
* ***Library/ Learning Resources:*** Since the development of the total person is part of our mission, assignments in the library and/or the Learning Resources Center should be included to assist students in enhancing skills and in using resources. Students should be encouraged to use the library for reading enjoyment as part of lifelong learning.

**Expanded Course Outline:**

Section I. Political Consciousness, Morality, and Ethics

Week I: Introduction

Week II: Political Consciousness and the Metaphysical Foundations of Politics

Week III: Politics, Ethics, and Morality

Section II. Political Authority, Power, and Forms of Political Organization

Week IV: Political Authority

Week V: Power, Leadership, and Authority

Week VI: Power, Leadership, and Authority cont.

Week VII: Political Conflict/Violence, State of Nature, and The State

Week VIII: Political Conflict/Violence, State of Nature, and The State: Liberalism

Week IX: Resistance and Civil Disobedience

Week X: Radical Critique of Liberalism

Section III. Liberty, Equality, and Justice

Week XI: Liberty, Citizen Obligations, and Limits on the State

Week XII: Freedom of Expression and Rights of Privacy

Week XIII: Freedom versus Equality

Week XIV: Rectification and Distribution

Section IV. Citizenship: The City and the World

Week XV: Citizenship and the City

Week XVI: Citizenship and the World