

Political Theory



Ideas and beliefs about politics have a long history. It's important to examine these theories to better understand your own and to be able to imagine new possibilities.

Begin your study of Political Theory with our second-year course on the "Political Imagination."

2nd-year Core Courses

POST 2351H – Political Imagination PT I

POST 2352H – Political Imagination PT II

Political thought as it appears in a diversity of sources – e.g., literature, film, theatre – as well as in established texts of political theory. With the 20th century and contemporary politics forming a point of reference, the course opens a particular route of access to both past and present political thought.

3rd-year Courses

POST 3330Y – Political Theory

Surveys some classic texts in the history of western political thought with an emphasis on problems of interpretation and the ways in which a tradition of political discourse determines our conceptions of the legitimate political activity.

POST 3350H – Politics and Creativity

Explores how creativity is a vital aspect of politics. Students will examine and reflect upon "doing politics differently" with the help of political theory, consideration of citizenship, and examples of activism through art and culture.

POST 3360H – Body Politic/The Body in Politics

Liberal political discourse assumes the polity emerges from the consent of rational autonomous actors. This will be challenged by focusing on debates concerning power as sovereignty, dominant class interest, and governance. Sexuality, disease, the family and the body are presumed to be beyond the scope of politics, but these issues will be engaged.

POST 3465H: Politics and Film

What makes a film "political"? We will consider the various ways in which political life and action are portrayed in and through film, addressing such topics as publics and publicity, visual politics, political senses, media manipulation, film bodies, and political bodies.

POST-PHIL 3140H: Justice and Rights

POST-PHIL 3180H: Social and Political Philosophy

POST 3960Y: Socialism: Theory and Practice (GP)

4th-year Courses

POST 4331H: Power and Resistance

Examining power and resistance in political conflict, this course will focus on practical cases (e.g. Occupy, Anti-globalization, the head scarf movement, post war trials of collaborators, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa) in relation to a range of relevant developments in contemporary political theory.

POST 4340H: Colonial and Post-Colonial Theory (GP)