

Topics and Debates in Western Political Theory			
Course Number	00LE62S-LAS-GO0026	Teaching Period	University semester
Study Area(s)	Governance, Electives upon request only!	Credit Points	6 ECTS
Module(s) (StuPo 2012)	Theoretical Foundations and Hermeneutical Methods	Module(s) (StuPo 2015)	Theoretical and Philosophical Foundations of Social and Political Sciences
Open to Students	Year(s) 2 (3, 4)	Max. Enrollment	22
Prerequisites	Introduction to Governance		
Instructor(s)	Dr. Elina Schleutker (elina.schleutker@ucf.uni-freiburg.de)		
Format, Dates, Times and Rooms	Plenary/Seminar 17.10.-10.02.: Mon, 10-12h, AU 01 065 Wed, 10-12h, AU 01 065		
Course Description	<p>In this course, we will study some core ideas of political theory, and get familiar with the work of the brightest minds of the Western political thought. The aim of the course is to discuss politically controversial topics (e.g. positive discrimination, prohibition of prostitution), and approach these from different theoretical perspectives. By the end of the course, the students will have learned to relate political arguments employed by politicians and other debaters to the different traditions of political theory. In addition, the students will learn to understand their own political opinions in relation to thinkers such as Marx and Mill, and will get practice in formulating these opinions in an academically sound way. This course uses problem based learning as a method of instruction.</p> <p>Course requirements</p> <p>The course examination consists of three learning diaries and a mock trial preparation essays. The deadlines for the assignments are as follows: First learning diary (20% of the grade): 14.11.2016; Second learning diary (30% of the grade): 21.12.2016; Third learning diary (30% of the grade): 17.2.2017; Mock trial preparation essay (20% of the grade): 6.2.2017</p> <p>Organizational details</p> <p>To balance out the elevated workload related to some of the course readings, learning diaries and mock trial preparations, the class occasionally takes a break of one or two meetings, so that the students have more time to write their assignments. The course goes on Christmas holidays on 14.12.2016. If you want to know the detailed dates for the course before the first course meeting in October, or if you would like to start reading the course literature already in advance, please contact the course instructor by email.</p>		
Remarks	<p>Students in the second year of the Major Governance need to take this course or another course in the module "Theoretical and Philosophical Foundations of Social and Political Sciences" in winter semester.</p> <p>For this course, no priority for senior students.</p> <p>Taking this course as an Elective is only possible upon request.</p>		