

Title of course	<b>M1. B Political Philosophy</b>
Responsible instructor	Prof Dr Robert Richert
Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interpret the core elements of ancient Greek, ancient Roman, ancient Indian, ancient Chinese and medieval Islamic political philosophy</li> <li>▪ Illustrate important aspects of Contractualism, Machiavellianism, Utilitarianism, Liberalism, Socialism, Communitarianism and the Capability approach</li> <li>▪ Compare the important contract theories of Hobbes, Rousseau, Rawls, Nozick and Buchanan</li> <li>▪ Compare the important Chinese schools of Legalism, Taoism, Confucianism and Mohism</li> <li>▪ Interpret the teachings of the medieval Islamic philosophers Alkindus, Avenassar, Avicenna, Avempace, Averroes, Ibn Khaldun and Al-Ghazali in the light of modern Islamic philosophy</li> <li>▪ Evaluate the importance of political ideas for different forms of governance</li> <li>▪ Create a set of values that seems to be supportive to democracy</li> <li>▪ Design a political order that fits to the relevant culture</li> </ul>
Course contents	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fundamentals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 Terminology</li> <li>1.2 Forms of government</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Ancient Greek political philosophy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Plato: "Politeia" (378 BC)</li> <li>2.2 Aristotle: "Nicomachean Ethics" (325 BC) and "Politika" (323 BC)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Ancient Roman political philosophy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Cicero: "The Republic" (51 BC) and "The Laws" (50 BC)</li> <li>3.2 Seneca: "Moral Letters to Lucilius" (62 AD)</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Contractualism <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 Thomas Hobbes: "Leviathan" (1651)</li> <li>4.2 Jean-Jacques Rousseau: "The Social Contract" (1762)</li> <li>4.3 John Rawls: "A Theory of Justice" (1972)</li> <li>4.4 Robert Nozick: "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" (1974)</li> <li>4.5 James Buchanan: "The Limits of Liberty" (1975)</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Machiavellianism and Utilitarianism <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1 Machiavellianism</li> <li>5.2 Utilitarianism</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Liberalism <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 Classical liberalism</li> <li>6.2 Chicago school</li> <li>6.3 Austrian school</li> <li>6.4 Freiburg school</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Socialism <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Traditional socialism</li> <li>7.2 Communism</li> <li>7.3 Marxism-Leninism</li> <li>7.4 Maoism</li> <li>7.5 Anarchism</li> <li>7.6 Contemporary socialism</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. Modern political philosophies</li> </ol>

	<p>8.1 Communitarianism 8.2 Capability approach</p> <p>9. Ancient Indian political philosophy 9.1 “Upanishads” 9.2 “The Vedas”</p> <p>10. Ancient Chinese political philosophy 10.1 Legalism (<i>fajia</i>) 10.2 Taoism (<i>taojia</i>) 10.3 Confucianism (<i>rujia</i> / more precisely: <i>kongjia</i>) 10.4 Mohism (<i>mojia</i>)</p> <p>11. Medieval and modern Islamic political philosophy 11.1 Al-Kindi [Alkindus] (801-873) 11.2 Al-Farabi [Alpharabius, Avenassar] (872-950) 11.3 Ibn Sinna [Avicenna] (980-1037) 11.4 Ibn Bajja [Avenpace] (1085-1138) 11.5 Ibn Rushd [Averroes] (1126-1198) 11.6 Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406) 11.7 Al-Ghazali (1058-1111) 11.8 Modern Islamic political philosophy</p>
Teaching methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lectures</li> <li>▪ Exercises</li> <li>▪ Hermeneutic discourses</li> <li>▪ Maieutic discourses</li> <li>▪ Discussion</li> <li>▪ Project work</li> <li>▪ Student presentations</li> <li>▪ Self-study</li> </ul>
Prerequisites	There are no formal requirements.
Suggested reading	<p>preferably most recent edition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cahn, S. M.: Political Philosophy – the Essential Texts, New York.</li> <li>▪ Kymlicka, W.: Contemporary Political Philosophy – an Introduction, Oxford.</li> <li>▪ Strauss, L. / Cropsey, J: History of Political Philosophy, Chicago.</li> <li>▪ White, M. J.: Political Philosophy: A Historical Introduction, Oxford.</li> </ul>
Applicability	<p>This course is in particular applicable to the following Master programmes:</p> <p>International Business and Economics (M.A.), Finance (M.Sc.).</p> <p>This course is also applicable to other business-oriented Master programmes offered by Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences.</p>
Workload	<p>Total workload: 150 hours, of them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lecture: 36</li> <li>▪ Self-study: 114, of them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Course preparation (in particular reading): 28</li> <li>▪ Follow-up: 36</li> <li>▪ Preparation for academic research project: 30</li> <li>▪ Exam preparation: 20</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
ECTS credit points and weighting factor	5 ECTS credit points; weighting factor: 5/120

Basis of student evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Comprehensive written examination, 90 minutes (80%)</li><li>▪ Presentation of student research project (20%)</li></ul>
Time	First academic year
Frequency	Each academic year
Duration	One semester
Course type	Elective course
Remarks	Teaching language is English.