Political Philosophy

Module Title	Political Philosophy
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	8
Module number/reference	TBC
Parent programme(s) the plural arises if there are embedded programmes to be validated.	Higher Diploma in Politics and Society
Stage of parent programme	Award
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)	1
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)	ECTS
Module credit number of units	5
List the teaching learning and assessment modes	This module will be taught synchronously online with 6 hours asynchronous learning and assessed by continuous assessment (100%)
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence	As per course entry requirements.
Pre-requisite module titles	No
Co-requisite module titles	No
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No	No
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff (staff includes workplace personnel who are responsible for learners such as apprentices, trainees and learners in clinical placements) If staff not in post at present, specify qualifications and experience required	A minimum Level 9 qualification in Philosophy, Political Philosophy or closely cognate area is required.
Maximum number of learners per centre (or instance of the module)	25
Duration of the module	12 weeks
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week (see * below	1.5
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module	Lecture hall, white board, computer, and projector. Library Resources

Analysis of required learning effort									
Effort while in contact with staff						Contact Hours for the Module			
Classroom and demonstrations		Mentoring and small-group tutoring		Other (specify)		Directed e-learning	Independent learning	Other hours (specify)	Work-based learning	Total effort
Hours	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours	Minimum ratio teacher / learner				
12	1:10					6	107		125

Allocation of Marks Within the Module					
	Continuous Assessment	Supervised Project	Practical	Final Exam	Total
Percentage Contribution	100%				**100%**

Module aims and objectives

This module aims to provide learners with an overview of the classic topics in political philosophy and the major thinkers in the western political tradition, and support learners to examine the influence of these philosophical concepts influence on contemporary political structures. It also aims to deepen learner understanding of the links between into social, scientific, and philosophical subjects.

This module is divided into two parts. The first part examines classic topics in political philosophy, from the historical figures in Greek philosophy to social contract theories of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, as well as key critiques. The second part of the module will explore issues within contemporary political philosophy, such as equality, human rights, and the politics of immigration with reference to contemporary case studies.

Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of political philosophy and some of its key concepts. (MIPLO 1, 2, 3)
2. Engage critically and reflectively with key philosophical topics such as the ideals of freedom, equality, political authority, and justice (MIPLO 1, 2, 3, 8)
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the similarities and differences between the disciplines of philosophy, politics, and sociology (MIPLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
4. Apply key theories and concepts to contemporary case studies and demonstrate practical skills and competencies in digital media skills in the presentation of data. (MIPLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7)

Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme and its contribution to the overall proposed Programme Learning Outcomes

This module introduces learners to the foundations of political philosophy and develops learner capacity to think critically and analytically in relation to political philosophy and its relationship to politics, sociology, citizenship, and civil society.

Learners will be given the opportunity to apply theory to contemporary case studies to understand the significance of political philosophy and its influence on how social and political institutions operate at local and international level. The module places an emphasis on the importance of theory and practice. Lectures will develop an awareness of how philosophical inquiry can advance and enrich critical thinking and contribute to a deeper understanding of inequality, justice, and human rights. The module will present learners with fundamental frameworks by which to understand social and political phenomena, as well as developing learner capacity for critical and analytical thinking. Through the practical application of theory, Political Philosophy will contribute to a deeper awareness of the significance of active and participatory citizenship. The module compliments and feeds into each of the programme modules and particularly meets MIPLOs 1, 2, 3.

Information provided to learners about the module

College Prospectus specifies module name, stage and ECTS. College website and programme handbook to contain (in addition to above) short description of module content, module learning outcomes, prerequisite modules, and assessment mechanisms. Module Moodle Page and Module

Handbook to contain (in addition to above) schedule of classes and topics, detailed assessment information with titles and submission dates, full bibliography, and list of learning resources.

Module content, organisation and structure

Introduction to Political Philosophy and Philosophical Inquiry:
Origins of and Development of Political Philosophy; Branches and Themes and Phases in Philosophy; Linking Philosophy, Social and Scientific Disciplines in the Context of Politics and Sociology

Theorists and Concepts:
Plato and the Republic; Social Contract Theories: Thomas Hobbes; John Locke; Jean-Jacques Rousseau; Human Nature; Natural Rights; Legitimate Sovereignty; The Social Contract; Notions of Freedom and Equality; Political Membership; Distributive Justice; Feminist, Postcolonial and Marxist Critiques.

Applying Political Philosophy to the Contemporary World:
The Ethics of Immigration; Open Borders; Distributive Justice; Citizenship – Exclusion & Exclusion

Case Studies:
Arab Spring Uprising; Open Borders; Internet and the Digital Social Contract; Debates on Gun Ownership; Land Property and Rights – the Inter-Tribal Coalition and Bear Ears National Monument

Module teaching, learning and assessment strategy
Lectures, discussion forums, case studies and group exercises. Learners will, in small groups, break down the material in tutorials for greater examination of the issues. Prescribed readings will be used to encourage engagement by learners and will provide a basis for formative assessment or assessment for learning (Carlow College Teaching and Learning Strategy).

Module summative assessment strategy
This module will be assessed by three assignments. Assessment will be by continuous assessment comprising of 2 in-class quizzes (30%) and a research project (70%).

The in-class quizzes (15% each) which will encourage memorisation of relevant information and will feed into the final grade.

The research project assesses knowledge, ability to analyse and evaluate, and the ability to form an argument and develops research skills. Learners are asked to apply theory and key concepts to a contemporary case study and design a digital poster presentation based on the findings (2500 words). The Poster Presentation will be included as part of the final E-Portfolio in the Pedagogy module.

Nature of assessment materials

Assessment	Weighting	MIMLO
In-Class Quizzes 15% (X2)	30%	1, 2, 3
Research Project and Poster Presentation	70%	2, 3, 4

Timetabling, Learner Effort and Credit

Timetable	Learner Effort	Credit
Online; 6 x 2 hour fortnightly classes, and 6 hours asynchronous learning	125 hours combined online contact hours, learning and assessment	5 ECTS

N/A

There will be 6 hours of asynchronous guided content.

Classes will be delivered via Microsoft Teams. The Learner Gateway and Library resources are also a requirement.

Essential Reading *(Selected Chapters from Original Texts):*
Elwood, G. (2021) Theories in Action. Folens.
Hobbes, T. (1968) *Leviathan.* London: Penguin.
Locke, J. (1960) *The Two Treatises of Government* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960, 1967, 1988)
Wolff, J. (1996) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*. Oxford: OUP.

Supplementary Reading:
Carens J. (1987) Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders. *Rev. Politics* 49(2): 251–73
Gibney M.J. (2015) Refugees and justice between states. *Eur. J. Political Theory* 14(4): 448–63
Goodin, R., and Pettit, P. (eds.), (1998) *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy.* London: Blackwell.
MacPherson, C.B. (1964; 1985) *The Political Theory of Possessive Individualism*. Oxford: OUP.
Miller, D. (2016) *Strangers in Our Midst: The Political Philosophy of Immigration*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
Morris, C. (1999) *The Social Contract Theorists: Critical Essays on Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau.* Oxford: Rowan and Littlefield.
Pateman, C. (1988) *The Sexual Contract.* Cambridge: Polity.
Plato, (1955) *The Republic*. London: Penguin.
Popper, K. (2002) *The Open Society and its Enemies*, vol.1. London: Routledge.
Rawls, J. (1971) *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Revised edition, 1999.
Rousseau, J. (1969) *The Social Contract*. London: Penguin.
Walzer, M. (1983) *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*. New York: Basic Books

Websites:
Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy https://iep.utm.edu/
Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy https://plato.stanford.edu/index.html

N/A

All details regarding compensation, penalties for late submissions, policy around repeat examinations/assessments, pass standards at programme, module, and assessment level, max completion period are outlined in the College's *Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards*. Where a learner does not successfully complete the module, they will have the opportunity to repeat the assessment in line with the College's *Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards*.