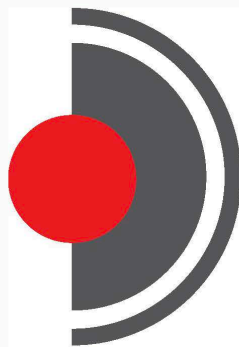




**ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI**  
**FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCES**  
**MA in Political Theory**

**STUDY GUIDE 2023-4**



**POLITICAL**  
**THEORY**

MA PROGRAMME POLITICAL SCIENCE AUTH



The 'old' Faculty of Philosophy building, Aristotle University campus.



School of Political Sciences, 12 V. Irakleiou street.

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## A. Introduction: The School of Political Sciences at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

### **The University: Basic profile**

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is the largest university in Greece. The main campus is located in the centre of the city of Thessaloniki and covers an area of about 33.4 hectares. It comprises 10 faculties which consist of 40 schools and 1 single-School Faculty. Some educational and administrative facilities are located off campus for practical and operational reasons. A number of these facilities are located outside the city of Thessaloniki or even in other cities.

### **The University: Brief history**

Eleftherios Venizelos was the first politician to start the efforts to found a university in Thessaloniki at a time when Northern Greece had just been liberated and when reinforcing the “New Territories,” as the newly liberated areas were then called, emerged as a national need. Plans provided also for founding a university in Smyrna. However, the Asia Minor disaster thwarted these plans. Eventually, it was due to the initiative taken by the government of Alexandros Papanastasiou that the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki was founded in 1925. After considerable discussions, the founding act of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (no. 3341/14-6-25) was signed and ratified on 5 June 1925 by the constitutional assembly of the time and was published in the Government Gazette on 22 June 1925. Problems continued to exist, however, after the enactment of the act, because of the political upheavals of the time. Thus, the Aristotle University first opened its doors a year later, in 1926. Georgios Chatzidakis was the first Head of the university and the second one was Christos Tsountas.

In order to meet the needs and demands of the time, special emphasis was placed on the development of the humanities. Thus, the Faculty of Philosophy was the first to open its doors in 1926. At first, it was housed in the “Allatini” building, which now hosts the Prefecture of Thessaloniki services. Soon, however, the location proved to be problematic and, in October 1927, the Faculty of Philosophy was transferred to a mansion in Ethnikis Amynis street, which previously housed the 2nd Military Hospital. The building was repaired and a third floor was added a little later. Today, it is the most historic building of the university and houses part of the Faculty of Philosophy.

The Faculty of Physics and Mathematics opened its doors in 1927. Much later, one of its schools, the School of Forestry, along with the School of Agriculture became part of the newly created Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry which started operations in 1937. The Faculty of Law and Economics opened its doors in 1928, whereas the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Theology were founded later, in 1941. The School of Veterinary Medicine was founded in 1950, the Institute of Foreign Languages in 1951, the Faculty of Engineering in 1955, and the School of Dentistry in 1959 as part of the Faculty of Medicine (it acquired its present status as an independent School in 1971). In 1982, Law no. 1268 providing for the structure and operation of Greek Higher Educational Institutions brought about a complete restructuring of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, since it promoted the school as the basic academic unit, a restructuring of faculties and the organization of schools into new faculties: the Faculty of Theology, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Faculty of Sciences, the Faculty of Law and Economics, the Faculty of Geotechnical Sciences, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Engineering.

The Faculty of Education was founded in 1983, the Faculty of Fine Arts in 1984, the independent school of Physical Education and Sports Sciences in 1983 and the independent School of Journalism and Mass Media in 1991. The School of Education in Florina was founded in 1993 and is now part of the University of Western Macedonia. New schools were added in the already existing faculties, such as the School of Political Sciences in the Faculty of Law, Economics and Political Sciences, the School of Psychology in the Faculty of Philosophy, and the School of Informatics in the Faculty of Sciences. Among the newer schools are the following independent schools: the School of Energy Resources Management Engineering in Kozani (1999), the School of Balkan Studies (1999) and the School of Education (1993) in Florina, which are part of the

University of Western Macedonia as of 1 January 2004 (Senate meeting 2753/28-8-2003). Two new schools were founded in 2004: the School of Film Studies, part of the Faculty of Fine Arts, and the School of Urban-Regional Planning and Development Engineering (in Veroia), part of the Faculty of Engineering.

### **The School: Overview**

The School of Political Sciences was founded in 1999; it admitted its first undergraduate students in 2000 and its first postgraduate students in 2006. Since 2013, the School forms part of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences (OPE) together with the Schools of Economics and the School of Journalism & Mass Communications.

The number of undergraduates admitted per year to the School of Political Sciences, as well as the criteria for their admittance (linked to a central examinations system), are set by the existing Greek laws and regulations of student admittance into all state higher education institutions and is currently 120 plus students of special categories and transfer students.

Through its study programmes (undergraduate and postgraduate) and its multiple research activities, the School of Political Sciences focuses on the study of politics and policy-making: on political institutions, structures, processes, and antagonisms. Its main goal is to cultivate and disseminate the theoretical and empirical tools necessary for the scientific analysis of the structure of, and relationships between, collective and individual identities within organized society.

The study programmes of the School combine theoretical and empirical analysis so as to achieve a rigorous and multi-layered approach towards political action and political structures. The School aims at producing graduates capable of describing and analyzing identities, relations, ideologies and policies, as well of supporting decision-making processes in the public sphere. Above all, it serves and encourages the exercise of critical thought in the spirit of academic freedom that characterizes a democratic institution like a public university.

The School awards an undergraduate degree (ptychion), a postgraduate degree and a doctoral degree. To qualify for the first degree a student must attend a minimum of eight semesters (four years); and for the postgraduate degree, a minimum of three semesters (one and a half years). The minimum time required for the completion of a PhD thesis is three years, while the maximum time is six years.

The School was evaluated in 2014 by an External Evaluation Committee of International Experts. The Committee concluded that: 'the faculty maintains an ambitious research agenda, which compares favorably with those of their counterparts in major American and European universities. [...] Despite inadequate resources, the faculty manages to publish rather extensively. It appears that a good number of faculty is research active, with many publications in foreign language refereed journals, mainly English and French. Many faculty are leading and/or participating in national and international research projects and research collaborations. Faculty attend and present in professional association conferences, such as those of IPSA, APSA and ECPR. [...] Although this is a relatively new Department, it enjoys a strong reputation in the country and could be considered a leader in the fields of political theory/political philosophy and political analysis. Faculty members appear to get along and the Departmental environment is amicable and student-friendly. Students feel well served and have a close rapport with the faculty. The research record of the faculty is strong, and well established, faculty are well-engrained and active in civil discourse and public life. These attributes significantly contribute to the enhancement of the Department's standing and student fulfillment'.

The certification of the School's Undergraduate Studies Program took place in 2021. The certification underlined the 'sincere dedication of the academic staff to the well-being of the student population' and the 'firm orientation of the School towards student-centered teaching'. According to the final certification report, the School maintains, among other things, a strong course programme, a dedicated teaching staff and a collegial academic environment.



'Gerasimos Vokos' room for postgraduate courses and seminars, 12 V. Irakleiou street.

## B. Location and contacts

### School Administration

**Chair:** Professor Ioannis Papageorgiou

**Vice-Chair:** Associate Professor Alexandros Kioupkiolis

**Secretary:** Ms. Marina Giarenti

**ECTS, Erasmus and international cooperation coordinator:** Assistant Professor Eftichia Teperoglou

**Erasmus+ Studies , Erasmus+ International coordinators:** Assistant Professor Eftichia Teperoglou and Assistant Professor Kostas Papastathis

**Erasmus+ Placement coordinator:** Assistant Professor George Andreou

**EPICUR coordinators:** Assistant Professor Eftichia Teperoglou and Professor Ioannis Papageorgiou

**Foreign students' advisor:** Assistant Professor Vemund Aarbakke

### Technical-administrative staff:

Dimitra Karaiskou

Eufrosyni Papadopoulou

Giota Gaitanidou (librarian)

Dimitris Milosis (computer lab)

### Location

The School Office, where undergraduate and postgraduate secretaries are based, and the auditoriums, where most undergraduate teaching is conducted, are located at the basement floor of the building of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences at the main campus of the Aristotle University. Staff offices, most postgraduate teaching rooms, IT facilities and the Laboratory for the Study of Democracy are located in a separate building at the city centre – on 12 Vasileos Irakleiou street – within walking distance from the main campus.

### Postal Address

School of Political Sciences,  
Ground floor,  
Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences,  
University Campus,  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,  
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**University website:** <http://www.auth.gr/>

**School website:** <http://www.polsci.auth.gr/>



**School facebook group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PoliticalScienceAuth/>

**Aristotle University ERASMUS website:** <http://www.eurep.auth.gr/>

**Aristotle University Library website:** <http://www.lib.auth.gr/>



School of Political Sciences, Aristotle University campus.

## C. The MA in Political Theory: Aims and Learning Outcomes

The Postgraduate Program in Political Theory **aims** at the rigorous and multi-faceted study of political theory in its various forms.

In particular, it encompasses:

- A systematic transfer of knowledge in order to familiarize students with the history of political theory and philosophy in their diachronic development.
- The enrichment and further encouragement of high quality research and teaching on the theoretical production of philosophers and scholars who have studied politics and the political as a distinct element.
- The organized mapping and interpretation of the conditions of emergence, articulation and broader impact of political argumentation within the public sphere.

Offering advanced postgraduate studies on the topic of political theory is combined with the discussion of cutting-edge scientific rubrics, the familiarization of students with research methods originating from various paradigms and with the practical engagement with seminar presentations and research essays. Through the contact with contemporary social-scientific research in political theory, it is anticipated that students will acquire new knowledge as well as the enhanced ability to understand and interpret contemporary political and socio-economic transformations from a rigorous conceptual and interpretive perspective.

The Postgraduate Program in Political Theory aims thus at the deepening of knowledge acquisition, at the development of critical social-scientific competences and at the associated advancement of professional skills, focus and potential success in both the public and the private sector, something enhanced by the emphasis placed on contemporary theoretical and institutional priorities.

Upon completing their studies, graduates who have successfully followed the Postgraduate Program in Political Theory will be equipped with the following **skills and competences**, which correspond to the **learning outcomes** of the MA Program:

- With the necessary political-theoretical knowledge allowing them to map and understand political phenomena with increased scientific rigor.
- With the necessary tools and methods, emanating from various theoretical and philosophical traditions associated with political science and related social sciences (sociology, law, comparative literature, qualitative social research, moral philosophy, etc.) enabling them to research political life in relatively autonomous and original ways.
- With the established critical perspective endowing every graduate with the ability to act with scientific ethos, resourcefulness and self-confidence within complex research and professional frameworks.
- With the practical resources facilitating the collection and scientific evaluation of multi-level information and evidence, the systematic processing and synthesis of elements originating from various sources (conventional and digital), the rigorous scientific questioning as well as the development of organized and convincing arguments in written and spoken discourse (both in Greek and in one foreign language).

- With the capacity to effectively handle multiple challenges in a synthetic manner, to operate productively within individual and collective settings and to actively participate in the design and implementation of complex scientific and professional projects demonstrating social and democratic responsibility.



The campus, the city, the sea and Mount Olympus.

## D. Academic Staff

### Teaching and Research Academic Staff

#### Professors

##### Nikolas Sevastakis

Nikolas Sevastakis studied political science at Panteion University (Athens). He continued his studies at postgraduate level at the Institute of Political Studies of the University Lumieres-Lyon II and received his doctorate from the Department of Political Science at Panteion University, submitting a thesis on the thought of Martin Heidegger. From 1999 to 2006 he taught political and social philosophy in the Department of Sociology at the University of the Aegean before moving to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His research focuses on the theories and critique of modernity as well as on values and ideology. His main publications include two collections of essays, *Psyche and Idols* (Kritiki, Athens 1997) and *Towards the Romantic Crisis* (Erasmos, Athens 1998), and the monographs: *The Alchemy of Happiness* (Polis, Athens 2000); *Banal Country* (Savvalas, Athens 2004), *Hospitable Nihilism: A Study of Homo Democraticus* (Estia, Athens 2008), *Essays and Readings. Politics, philosophy, literature* (Opportuna, Athens 2011). He has co-authored with Yannis Stavrakakis, *Populism, anti-populism and crisis* (Nefeli, Athens 2012). Recent articles include “the dialectics of amnesia”, *Synchrona Themata*, 120, July 2013; “Theories, critic, the Left. Some thoughts” in the volume *Theory, literature, the left* (Taxideftis, Athens 2013); “The Greek neo-nazism and the critical juncture”, *Synchrona Themata*, 121, October 2013; “Addendum. Thoughts about the governance and the present dangers” *Synchrona Themata*, 130-131, December 2015; “Let us forget the totalitarian: Between theory, memory and history”, *Neo Planodion*, 2, Summer 2014; “Liberalism, ‘radical critique’ and veils of the crisis”, *Neo Planodion*, 3, Autumn 2015; “Money-merchandise, literature and cultural crisis. Some thoughts”, in the volume *The glimmer of money in modern Greek literature. From the Critical Renaissance of the 21<sup>st</sup> century* (Kostas and Eleni Ouranis Foundation, Athens 2016).

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##### Yannis Stavrakakis

Yannis Stavrakakis studied political science at Panteion University (Athens) and received his MA degree from the Ideology and Discourse Analysis Programme at the University of Essex, where he also completed his PhD. He has worked at the Universities of Essex and Nottingham before taking up a position at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2006. His research primarily focuses on contemporary political theory (with emphasis on psychoanalytic and poststructuralist approaches) and on the analysis of ideology and discourse in late modern societies (with emphasis on populism, environmentalism, nationalism and post-democracy). He is the author of *Lacan and the Political* (Routledge, London & New York 1999) and *The Lacanian Left* (Edinburgh University Press/SUNY Press, Edinburgh and Albany 2007) and co-editor of *Discourse Theory and Political Analysis* (Manchester University Press, Manchester 2000), *Lacan & Science* (Karnac, London 2002), *Aspects of Censorship in Greece* (Nefeli, Athens 2008 [in Greek]) and *The Political in Contemporary Art* (Ekkremes, Athens 2008 [in Greek]). He has co-authored, with Nikolas Sevastakis, *Populism, Anti-populism and Crisis* (Nefeli, Athens 2012 [in Greek]). His most recent publications include the introductory study, *Populism: Myths, Stereotypes and Reorientations* (Hellenic Open University Press, Athens 2019 [in Greek]) and the edited volume, *Routledge Handbook of Psychoanalytic Political Theory* (Routledge, New York 2019). He has served as vice-president of the Hellenic Political Science Association and co-convenor of the Populism Specialist Group of the British Political Studies Association. During the period 2014-15 he headed the research project, “POPULISMUS: Populist Discourse and Democracy”.

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##### Aris Stilianou

Aris Stylianou studied philosophy at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He continued his studies at the postgraduate level at the Paris-IV University and received his doctorate from Paris-I at Sorbonne (1987-

1993). He has taught at the Schools of Journalism and Mass Media (1995-1997), Philosophy and Pedagogy (1997-2002), and at the School of Political Sciences of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from 2002 onwards. His research interests include political philosophy and political theory, as well as translation. His publications include: *Histoire et politique chez Spinoza* (Atelier National de Reproduction des Thèses, Lille, 1994); "Spinoza et le temps historique" (*Les Études Philosophiques*, 1997); "Spinoza et l'histoire antique" (*Studia Spinozana*, 2001); *Social Contract Theories. From Grotius to Rousseau* (Polis, Athens 2006); "Sulla funzione politica degli esempi storici in Spinoza", *Storia politica della moltitudine. Spinoza e la modernità* (*Derive Approdi*, Rome 2009); "Historicité, multitude et démocratie", (*Astérion*, 10, 2012). He has edited "Spinoza: Towards Freedom. Ten Contemporary Greek Essays" (*Axiologika*, special issue 2, *Exantas*, Athens 2002) as well as the "Special issue on classic rationalism", *Philosophical Memorandum*, vol 7 (Polis, Athens, May 2008). He has also translated and edited philosophical texts.

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### **Associate Professors**

#### **Karolos Kavoulakos**

Karolos Iosif Kavoulakos was elected lecturer in 2009, assistant professor in 2019 and associate professor in 2023. He has studied at the Panteion University, Athens, Freie Universität, Berlin and The National and Kapodistrian University, Athens, from which he received his PhD. He has worked as researcher at the National Center of Social Research, the Research Center for Gender Equality and the University of Thessaly. Since 2011 he is a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Bath University; since 2008 he is also teaching at the Hellenic Open University. His research interests include social movements, civil society, collective mobilisation, urban policy and urban sociology. He has participated in several research projects and published in Greek and International periodicals as well as collective works. His main publications are related to urban social movements, alternative political and economic ventures and racist mobilisation. His recent publications include: (with G. Gritzias) *Alternative Economic and Political Space: Civil Society, Social Movements and Spatial Development* (Kallipos 2016), "Diverse Economies and Alternative Spaces. An overview of Approaches and Practices", *European Urban and Regional Studies* (2016), "Movements and Alternative Space in Crisis Stricken Greece: A New Civil Society" (2015), in N. Georgarakis & N. Demertzis (Eds.), *The Political Portrait of Greece. Crisis and Deconstruction of Politics*. (Gutenberg, Athens 2015). "Public Space and Urban Movements" in Th. Maloutas (Ed.) *Atlas of the Social Geography of Athens*. Harokopio University, electronic publication, (2016), K. I. Kavoulakos & N. Serdedakis "Collective Action and Social Movements", in A. I. Metaxas (Ed.) *Political Science: interdisciplinary and contemporary investigation of political action* (Sideris, Athens 2016), "Movements and Public Spaces in Athens: Spaces of Freedom, Spaces of Democracy, Spaces of Authority", in G. Kandyliis, R. Kaftatzoglou, Th Maloutas, M. Petrou, N. Souliotis (Eds.) *The City Center as (New) Political Challenge* (EKKE, Athens 2013).

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#### **Alexandros Kioupiolis**

Alexandros Kioupiolis studied Greek literature (classics) at the University of Athens, Faculty of Philosophy, and political theory at the University of Essex (MA in Political Theory) and the University of Oxford (DPhil). He has taught political theory at the University of Oxford and the University of Cyprus. In 2009 he was elected lecturer at the School of Political Sciences of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and he now serves as assistant professor. His research interests focus on modern philosophies of freedom, contemporary philosophies of justice, theories of democracy, analyses and critiques of power. Recent publications include: "The Post-political Multitude in the Streets of Athens. Two Theses on Radical Democracy" (*Synchrone Themata*, 2008), "Post-critical Liberalism and Agonistic Freedom" (*Contemporary Political Theory*, 2008), "Keeping it Open: Ontology, Ethics, Knowledge and Radical Democracy" (*Philosophy and Social Criticism*, 2009), "Three Paradigms of Modern Freedom" (*European Journal of Political Theory*, 2009), *Freedom After the Critique of Foundations: Marx, Liberalism and Agonistic Autonomy* (Palgrave-Macmillan, Hampshire 2012), "The commons of liberty" (Exarchia, Athens 2014). He has also co-edited:

*Radical Democracy and Collective Movements Today. The Biopolitics of the Multitude Versus the Hegemony of the People* (Ashgate, 2014, Turkish translation: Koç University Press, 2016), *Discourse theory: Creative applications* (Gutenberg, Athens 2015).

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### ***Specialized Teaching Staff Members***

#### **Vassilios Betsakos**

Vassilios Betsakos studied classical literature at AUTH. In his postgraduate studies he studied the moral and political philosophy of Aristotle. His doctoral research focused on the reception of Aristotelian philosophy by byzantine theology and philosophy. He worked in Secondary Education from 1998 to 2021. From 2005 to 2015 he taught at AUTH as a contract employee. For three years (2016-2019) he was a member of the Collaborating Scientific Staff of the Hellenic Open University. His research interests focus on Aristotelian philosophy (physics, ethics, politics). For the past two years he has been studying the political discourse of ancient Greek writers in the context of writing a study with the same title.



Research Dissemination Centre, Aristotle University campus.

## E. Studying in the Postgraduate Program in Political Theory: Structure and Courses

**Director:** Professor Yannis Stavrakakis

**Steering Committee:** Nicolas Sevastakis, Yannis Stavrakakis, Aris Stylianou, Karolos Iosif Kavoulakos, Alexandros Kioupiolis

Covering the history of political and philosophical ideas from antiquity up until late modernity, this MA programme places emphasis on modern and contemporary political theory including the study of ideologies and political discourses. It endorses a multi-dimensional methodological perspective in order to encourage critical and independent thinking and to provide the necessary skills for a reflexive analysis of political ideas, projects and initiatives.

**The total number of ECTS needed for the completion of the programme and for graduation is 90, from which 60 are taken through course examinations and the remaining 30 through the successful completion and defence of the diploma thesis (MA dissertation).**

**List of postgraduate courses:**

### SEMESTER 1

Compulsory courses

Code	Course title	ECTS
ΠΘ101	Modern political theory and philosophy (Sevastakis)	10
ΠΘ102	Contemporary political theory (Kioupiolis)	10
ΠΘ103	Theories of social movements (Kavoulakos)	10

### SEMESTER 2

Compulsory courses

Code	Course title	ECTS
ΠΘ201	Classical political theory and philosophy (Stylianou)	10
ΠΘ202	Ideology critique and political discourse analysis (Stavrakakis)	10
ΠΘ203	Political and moral philosophy (Betsakos)	10

### SEMESTER 3

Diploma Thesis (30 ECTS)

**Course outlines:**

Modern political theory and philosophy (10 ECTS)
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### Course Content (Syllabus)

This course familiarize students with some crucial features of the post-Enlightenment, 19th century. Our approach will involve a reflection on a number of questions including Hegelian political theory, French liberalism, utilitarianism, Spencerian anti-statism and Marxian radical critiques of politics. In addition, the course will focus on patterns of antidemocratic thought in late modernity.

### Learning Outcomes

The course aims to deepen student's understanding of the issues of modern political theory and philosophical foundations of our modernity. The course aims, also, to develop the abilities of participants to engage in argument about a broad range of issues relating to democracy, civil society, state/ society relation, liberal order and social emancipation.

### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Summative)
- Performance / Staging (Formative)

### Bibliography

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Sternell, Zeev, *Ο Αντιδιαφωτισμός*, Αθήνα, Πόλις, 2008.

Ντε Μαιστρ, Ζοζέφ, *Κατά της Γαλλικής Επανάστασης*, Αθήνα, Καστανιώτης, 1999

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Tocqueville, Alexis, de, *Η δημοκρατία στην Αμερική*, Στοχαστής.

Tocqueville, Alexis, de, *Το παλαιό καθεστώς και η Επανάσταση*, Αθήνα, Πόλις, 2006.

Μιλ, Τζον, Στιούαρτ, *Περί ελευθερίας*, Επίκουρος.

Μαρξ, Καρλ, *Το εβραϊκό ζήτημα*, Οδυσσεάς, Αθήνα, 2006.

Κονδύλης, Παναγιώτης, *Αντίδραση, Παλινόρθωση*, Ίνδικτος, Αθήνα, 2001.

Κονδύλης Παναγιώτης, *Ο συντηρητισμός, Ιστορικό περιεχόμενο και παρακμή*, Πανεπιστημιακές εκδόσεις Κρήτης, 2015.

Picon, Antoine, *Οι σαινσιμονιστές: ορθός λόγος, φανταστικό, ουτοπία*, Πολιτιστικό Ίδρυμα της Τράπεζας Πειραιώς, 2007.

Hegel, G.W.F, *Φιλοσοφία του δικαίου*, Νομική Βιβλιοθήκη, 2012

Popper, Karl, *Η ανοιχτή κοινωνία και οι εχθροί της. Hegel, Marx και τα επακόλουθα*, Δωδώνη, 1982.

Additional bibliography for study

Auguste Comte, *Early Political Writings*, Cambridge University Press, 1998. [Βιβλιοθήκη νεότερης και σύγχρονης Ιστορίας ]

Annelien de Dijn, *French Political Thought from Montesquieu to Tocqueville. Liberty in a leveled society?* Cambridge University Press, 2008.



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K.S. Vincent, *Benjamin Constant and the Birth of French Liberalism* (New York, 2011)

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S. Avineri, *Hegel's Theory of the Modern State*, (Cambridge, 1972)

Z.A. Pelczynski, 'Political Community and Individual Freedom in Hegel's Philosophy of State', in Pelczynski (ed), *The State and Civil Society: Studies in Hegel's Political Philosophy*, (Cambridge, 1984), pp. 55-76

E. Weil, *Hegel and the State*, trans. M.A. Cohen (Baltimore MD, 1998) *The Tocqueville Reader: A Life in Letters and Politics*, eds. O. Zunz and A. S. Kahan (Oxford, 2002)

A. Craiutu, 'Tocqueville and the Political Thought of the Doctrinaires', *History of Political Thought* 20 (1999).

Contemporary political theory (10 ECTS)

### Course Content (Syllabus)

The 'political' in the thought of the 20th and 21st century refers to the 'differentia specifica' or the fundamental traits of political action as distinct from both other forms of practice and process -social, economic, religious etc.- and from interactions which operate within the institutional framework of the established order. Hence, the 'political' in the thought of Carl Schmitt was bound up with the decision of the sovereign and the friend-enemy distinction, that is, with a fundamental antagonism which sets up political communities, while in the thought of Claude Lefort it is located in the moment of the initial creation and institution of a new social formation. Our main objective is to critically explore and assess different interpretations of the 'political' from the time of Carl Schmitt to date, in the work of thinkers such as Claude Lefort, Michel Foucault, Ernesto Laclau, Chantal Mouffe, Giorgio Agamben and Michael Hardt & Toni Negri. Particular emphasis will be laid on the conceptualization of power and sovereignty (biopolitics, postdemocracy, hegemony, voluntary servitude) and on the links between politics and ontology, that is, on how the different conceptions of the political are intertwined and interact with different conceptions of the basic structure of reality, as well as on the new forms of political articulation which emerge in our times (commons, horizontality, post-hegemony).

### Learning Outcomes

Solid and critical understanding of basic concepts of contemporary political theory regarding the different conceptions and forms of 'the political.' Ability to study and process the relevant literature, and to carry out bibliographical research. Ability to develop a critical and original reflection on relevant topics. Ability to write an scientific argumentative essay, which will lay the groundwork for scientific publications.

#### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Formative)
- Performance / Staging (Formative)
- participation in the seminar

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Theories of social movements (10 ECTS)
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#### Course Content (Syllabus)

"Social movements" is a relatively modern scientific field. Until the 1960s, they were a sub-field within broader social and political theories. However, the reality shaped by the revolt of '68 and the emergence and spread in the 1970s of the New Social Movements changed the form and content of citizens' political and social action. This created the need for more intensive study of the movements as well as new theoretical approaches and analysis. Recent developments in the field of social movements such as the alternative globalization movement and the anti-austerity movements have given new impetus to research and led again to new theoretical formulations. In addition, differentiated experiences, mainly in Latin American countries, have provided the opportunity to formulate differentiated theoretical approaches. The research questions that have been raised in the various theories concern why, how and when social

movements emerge and develop, what are the individual motivations for participation, how to analyze their political discourse, which is the significance of collective identity, how they are influenced by structural changes of the society and politics, how they fit into their wider political environment, what is their political and social role and how they change the society and the policies. The course focuses on theories of collective action and social movements. Emphasis will be given to: a. the criticism of approaches to rational choice theory, b. in the theory of conflict politics, c. the theory of new social movements; and d. in contemporary approaches. In particular, the following topics are considered: -Definitions of social movements (theoretical and epistemological conditions) -Theories of collective behavior and relative deprivation (Blumer, Gurr, Davies, Merton) -Anarchist Theories of the 19th century -Marxist Theories of Collective Action: Similarities and Differences in Lenin's and Luxemburg's Approaches -Rational choice Theory (M. Olson) -Resource mobilization Theory (Mc Carthy - Zald) -New Social movements Theories (Touraine, Melucci, Offe and Habermas) -The approach of the political process with emphasis on the concept of the structure of political opportunity (Mc Adam, Tarrow) -Frame Analysis (Snow, Benford) -Contentious Politics (Tilly) - Contemporary anarchists approaches - Approaches from Latin America (Zibecchi, Holloway)

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- recognize the key questions of the contemporary social movement research,
- understand the theoretical and epistemological differences between the research programs set up for the study of social movements in the last 50 years,
- recognize the impact of the social and political context on the dominant theories,
- use basic research tools of the most up-to-date approaches.

#### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Summative)
- Performance / Staging (Formative, Summative)

#### Bibliography

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Classical political theory and philosophy (10 ECTS)
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### Course Content (Syllabus)

After a brief introduction to the history of the concept of modern political philosophy, the course presents a critical overview of political theories in Modernity, as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Spinoza, Locke, Montesquieu,

Rousseau, Kant, Hegel and Marx. Intellectual and theoretical currents are in turn contextualized in terms of contemporary political issues and conflicts.

### Learning Outcomes

After the courses, students will be in touch with modern political theories, they will be able to recognise the difference between the main political theories of Modernity, they will know the basic elements of the political theories from Machiavelli to Marx and they will be in position to use the main philosophical concepts concerning politics.

### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Formative, Summative)
- Oral Exams (Formative, Summative)
- Performance / Staging (Formative, Summative)

### Bibliography

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## Ideology critique and political discourse analysis (10 ECTS)

### Course Content (Syllabus)

From the moment of its emergence, in the work of the French Enlightenment philosopher De Tracy, the concept of 'ideology' has constituted one of the most important foundations of political modernity. At the same time, the study of ideology is generally acknowledged as one of the major fields in political theory. The first aim of this course is to construct a genealogy of the various conceptualizations of ideology within modernity, with particular emphasis on the Enlightenment project of the French ideologues, Marxian and Marxist approaches (from Marx to Althusser), Karl Mannheim's sociology of knowledge, the 'mythological' approach of Roland Barthes, etc. We then examine the limitations of traditional theories of ideology highlighted in the work of theorists such as Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, Ernesto Laclau and others, and the new directions they propose in rethinking the ideological by utilizing the advances signaled by the 'linguistic turn' and social constructionism. In the last part of the course the aim is to explore the use of psychoanalytic theory (Freud and Lacan) in the ongoing reorientation of the analysis of ideology, with special emphasis in post-Althusserian theory of ideology and discourse analysis (Laclau & Mouffe, Zizek).

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have acquired:

- Systematic knowledge in the field of theory and critique of ideology as well as discourse analysis.
- Broadening and deepening of the relevant knowledge in the modern theory of ideology, in discourse theory (Essex School) and with regard to "social constructionism" (especially where the influence of psychoanalytic approaches is registered).
- Ability to process and articulate information from a variety of sources (conventional and electronic, Greek and foreign).
- Familiarity with qualitative analytical tools and methods of political research.
- Ability and skills in order to use the aforementioned tools in developing complex theoretical arguments (oral and written).
- Ability to use the aforementioned methods in designing and implementing a research project utilizing political, psychoanalytic and discursive models in the analysis of concrete ideological phenomena.
- Skills to exercise critical reflexivity in research work.

### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Summative)
- Performance / Staging (Formative)

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#### Political and moral philosophy (10 ECTS)

#### Learning Outcomes

Understanding the distinction of personal from political ethics. Learning of the fundamental philosophical approaches to the problem of evil. Sensibilization on the originality of the problem of evil after the experience of the Holocaust, as a challenge to philosophy. After the courses, students will be acquainted with the historical and philosophical conditions of emergence of liberal ideas in the 18th century; especially in the context of the Scottish Enlightenment and mainly by Adam Smith. The students will be also ready to grasp the affinities and differences of the ideas of Neoliberalism with respect to the liberal tradition. They will be aware of the contemporary debate concerning the relevance of neoliberal responses to actual economic and social challenges, ecology, psychology, and law.

#### Course Content (Syllabus)

1. Analysis of the historical and intellectual context of the emergence of the ideas of Liberalism. Connection with the ideas of the Enlightenment. Understanding the tenets of laissez-faire in the context of the challenges of the age. Emphasis on the moral and political prerequisites of the theory of Adam Smith
2. Study of the crisis of the welfare state and the emergence of Neoliberalism. The idea of spontaneous order by Hayek. Hayek's critique of the notion of social justice. Hayek's project for a constitutional reformation. Markets and democracy.

#### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Formative)
- Performance / Staging (Formative)

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Diploma Thesis (30 ECTS)
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The MA dissertation aims at the familiarisation of students with the principles of scientific research and at the development of skills allowing the rigorous utilisation of scientific literature and of all types of research material. It provides students with competences related to the processing, articulation and presentation of social-scientific arguments and conclusions, in both oral and written form, in accordance with international scientific standards. Students have to choose a particular topic within political theory, which they are invited to research under the guidance of a three-member examination committee comprising the supervisor and two other members. MA dissertations can also be written in English (in addition to Greek).

#### Learning Outcomes

- Upon successful completion, submission and assessment of the MA dissertation, students will be able to:
- Access, select, analyse and articulate bibliographical and research data in their chosen field and topic within political theory.
  - Energise the skills needed to organise their theoretical/bibliographical and, if relevant, empirical material, in a rigorous way, consistent with the requirements of social scientific arguments.

- Enlist particular methods of composition and textual competences facilitating scientific referencing as well as developing arguments to their conclusion. - Identify plagiarism in order to avoid it.
- Present scientific argumentation to wider publics in oral and written discourse.

#### Student Assessment methods

- Written Assignment (Summative)
- Performance / Staging (Summative)

### The Doctoral Degree

Eligible for registering as PhD candidates at the School are holders of a postgraduate degree in Political Science or another relevant field of study. PhD candidates are registered for a minimum of three years. Beyond this period, extensions are allowed on a yearly basis and cannot exceed a maximum of six years.

Prospective candidates are expected to contact a member of the academic staff of the School who is to be their main supervisor and who undertakes to consult them on their research proposal, support their application in writing, and propose the other two members of the consultative academic committee of their thesis.

#### **\* IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS FROM ABROAD:**

Entry requirements are also mentioned in detail here:

[https://www.polsci.auth.gr/en/basic\\_page\\_polsci/the-doctoral-degree/](https://www.polsci.auth.gr/en/basic_page_polsci/the-doctoral-degree/)

If or when you hold a postgraduate degree from a recognized university, you can contact a member of staff whose work is close to your research interests and discuss with her/him the possibility of PhD supervision as well as the process of finalizing and submitting a proposal.

Brief CVs of staff members and their research interests are listed here:

<https://www.polsci.auth.gr/en/academic-staff/>

PhD theses can be written in Greek or English.



2016: The Aristotle University celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## F. Important information for students

### Locations

The School is located in the University Campus at the Law School building. Most lectures take place in teaching rooms A and B on the ground floor of this building. In addition, some lectures are held in a separate building around 15 minutes walk from the main University Campus (on 12 V. Irakleiou str. – a main thoroughfare running along the city). Staff offices are also located there. For further contact details and information see the following web address:

<https://www.polsci.auth.gr/en/>

### Institutional Account / Academic ID

Upon arrival at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, all students must register with the Erasmus Office (Department of European Educational Programmes), located at the first floor of the Administration Building at the University Campus, where they obtain their 'Erasmus ID' Card. With this card they must then register in the Secretariat of the School where they will study during their Erasmus+ Period. Moreover, all incoming students need to obtain an Academic ID ('Passo').

### Library and Information Centre

The Library and Information Centre of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is an independent university

unit which consists of the Central Library and its branches (Specialized Academic Libraries and Departmental Libraries). Further information is available here:

<https://www.lib.auth.gr/en/b001>

### **University Student Club**

Up to 15.000 meals are served free of charge to all members of the university community on a daily basis by the University Student Club. Further information is available from here:

[https://www.auth.gr/en/university\\_unit/pfl-en/](https://www.auth.gr/en/university_unit/pfl-en/)

### **Accommodation**

In order to help incoming Erasmus+ and Erasmus Mundus students to find accommodation, the Department of European Educational Programmes has added in its website a link showing flat and/or room advertisements from independent landlords:

<https://eurep.auth.gr/en/accommodation-list>

The Greek Student members of the ESN (Erasmus Student Network) are also available for queries concerning your contact with the proprietors.

You can also find a list of real estate agents here:

<http://www.xo.gr/dir-az/R/Real-Estate-Agencies/Thessaloniki/?lang=en>

### **Student Health Services/Counselling/Insurance/Special needs**

All Aristotle University students, including foreigner visitors, have equal rights regarding their possible needs for health care. Further information is available from here:

<https://www.auth.gr/en/healthservices-students/>

The University operates a Counseling and Guidance Centre as well, which is accessible from here:

[https://www.auth.gr/en/university\\_unit/kesypsy-en/](https://www.auth.gr/en/university_unit/kesypsy-en/)

### **School of Modern Greek Language**

The School of Modern Greek Language of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has been offering Greek language and culture courses to foreigners and Greeks living abroad since 1970. It operates under the supervision of the faculty members of the Faculty of Philosophy. The School also offers tailor-made courses for specific purposes, as well as training seminars for teachers of Greek. It participates in research and educational programmes conducted in collaboration with domestic and external agencies. It also organizes exams for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek, a prerequisite for foreign students to enroll in a Greek university. The teaching personnel of the School is experienced, highly qualified and involved in the production of teaching material.

Its role is not limited to teaching Greek. The School also focuses on various activities and cultural events, and hosts hundreds of students from all over the world, thus creating a multicultural environment. Hence, students get acquainted with the Greek way of life and enjoy contact with different people in the warm and lively atmosphere. Further information is available from here:

<https://smg.web.auth.gr/may2019b/en/>

### **Centre for Foreign Language Teaching**

The Centre for Foreign Language Teaching is an Academic Unit of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and offers courses in Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP). The main languages taught are English, German, French, and Italian. Further information is available from here:

[https://www.auth.gr/en/university\\_unit/lance-en/](https://www.auth.gr/en/university_unit/lance-en/)

### **University Gym**

The University Gym of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki provides the students and personnel of the university with a wide range of sports programmes and activities. Further information is available from here:

[https://www.auth.gr/en/university\\_unit/gym-en/](https://www.auth.gr/en/university_unit/gym-en/)

### **Getting to Thessaloniki**

The city of Thessaloniki may currently be reached in the following ways.

#### **By plane:**

The easiest way to get to Thessaloniki is by a direct fly to the city's airport called "Makedonia International Airport":

<http://www.thessalonikiairport.com/>

The airport serves both international and domestic flights. Most major airline companies have direct flights to Thessaloniki or flights via Athens. Thessaloniki airport (SKG) is the second biggest airport in Greece and is located 14km east of the city center.

#### **By coach:**

All long-distance buses are operated by regional collectives known as "KTEL":

<https://ktelthes.gr/en/>

If you are coming to Thessaloniki via Athens, it is a 511km (approximately 6 hours) journey. In order to travel by bus to Thessaloniki or from Thessaloniki to any destination in Greece you may find all the necessary information by contacting the "Makedonia Intercity Bus Station (KTEL) of Thessaloniki:

<https://ktelmacedonia.gr/en/home/list/>

#### **By boat:**

Thessaloniki's port is connected by sea with other major ports and islands:

<https://www.thpa.gr/index.php/en/>

## G. The Erasmus+ Programme

The Erasmus+ Programme (which now covers the Erasmus+ Studies, the Erasmus+ Placement and the Erasmus+ International segments) offers the opportunity to undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as to doctoral students to fulfill an integral part of their studies or complete a period of traineeship in other countries of the European Union and the Erasmus+ associated countries (and, for the Erasmus international, in partner universities all over the world). Furthermore, members of academic staff also have the opportunity to carry out mobility for teaching or training, while administrative personnel can also realize training mobility through the same programme.

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki accepts students and staff from a wide variety of partner universities (within the European Union and worldwide). Students can obtain information regarding bilateral agreements with the Aristotle University by contacting the Erasmus or International Relations Office of their host universities. At any rate, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has developed a variety of cooperation programmes with a notable number of European Institutions of Higher Education. In particular, the School of Political Sciences currently has bilateral agreements with a growing number of universities, including Frankfurt, Strasbourg, Maastricht, Wrocław, Cyprus, ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute, Bogazici, Tallinn University of Technology, Metropolitan University of Prague, Hacettepe, Technische Universität Chemnitz.

For the academic year 2023-4, the full list of Erasmus+ bilateral agreements of the School of Political Sciences is the following:

[https://www.polsci.auth.gr/en/basic\\_page\\_polsci/erasmus-cooperation-agreements/](https://www.polsci.auth.gr/en/basic_page_polsci/erasmus-cooperation-agreements/)

## **APPENDIX: THE EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM**

### **What is ECTS?**

ECTS is part of the ERASMUS Programme (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) and its aim is to promote the processes of recognition of study among cooperating institutions in Europe. It was first introduced in the academic year 1992-93, and it enables students to recognize the part of their studies that was realized in universities abroad.

More specifically, ECTS is a system for the transfer of credits among European Universities. This is achieved through the support of transparency in their study programmes and student achievements. ECTS reflects the content, structure, equivalence and correspondence of academic programmes, utilizing quality criteria for University Institutes participating in the programme and defined by the latter in such a way as to create appropriate conditions for cooperation agreements.

### **ECTS credits**

ECTS credits are numerical values allocated to course units to describe the student's workload required to complete them. ECTS credits for each course reflect or correspond to the workload (lectures, laboratories, seminars, projects, examinations) required from the student for the successful completion of the course. That is, ECTS is based on the total workload of the student and is not limited to course hours.

More specifically, ECTS provides a way of measuring and comparing learning achievements, and then 'transferring' them from one EU institution to another. ECTS is based on the principle of mutual trust and confidence between the participating higher education institutions.

### **ECTS and Erasmus exchange students**

Students participating in Erasmus+ studies and students of Erasmus+ International will receive a transcript providing full credit for all academic work successfully carried out at any of the Erasmus+ partner institutions and will be able to transfer these academic credits from one participating institution to another on the basis of prior agreement. All students of the participating departments who are willing to take part in the Erasmus+ scheme may do so if the institutions agree and within the limit of available places. Students participating in ECTS will travel to a host institution in another EU member state to study for a limited period of time and then return to their home institution.

Erasmus+ students will be required to comply with the legal and institutional requirements of the country and institution where their degree will be awarded. When the student has successfully completed the study programme previously agreed between sending and receiving institutions and returns to the home university, credits obtained at the receiving institution will be transferred and the student will continue the study course at the home institution without any loss of time or credit. Students selected to participate in the Erasmus+ exchange programmes are awarded a student mobility grant if they fulfill the general conditions of eligibility following the Commission's instructions and specific eligibility criteria established by the relevant universities.