

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Understanding the theories behind politics
Status: Definitive
Code: **4501BICIRP** (129663)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Beaconhouse Group

Team	Leader
Matthew Hill	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 46
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 154

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Online	2
Tutorial	11
Workshop	11

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	15 minute presentation including Q and A session	25	
Essay	AS2	2,500 word essay	75	

Aims

Discuss the key themes, concepts and ideas in Western and non-Western political thought in order to have a global view on the relationship between the human, state and society

Provide a solid grounding in the key texts in political thought from around the world

and from different eras

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify and explain the key themes, concepts and ideas in political thought.
- 2 Discuss how complex and contentious theorising is when attempting to understand the relationship between human, state and society.
- 3 Understand and assess the importance of key texts produced, and be able to illustrate their strengths and weaknesses relative to other theoretical positions.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

15 minute presentation	2	3	
2,500 word essay	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

The course is text based, and it is essential that students become familiar with the key texts of political thought. Topics covered will typically include:

- *What is a theory, and how it can be used*
- *Human nature and politics*
- *Law and politics*
- *The relationship between moral, religious and political ideas*
- *Concepts of justice, liberty and equality*

Learning Activities

Lectures, workshops and tutorials.

Notes

Theory is an important tool in understanding why and how we act whether it be as an individual or a group. This module encourages us to think about the different ways in which we have attempted to understand the relationship between the human, state and society. All too often our understanding of these theories are driven by Western political thought. Whilst an essential component, this module will also explore non-Western thoughts on this relationship in an attempt to gain a greater understanding of humans and the world in which we live in. A skills specific session will be incorporated in this module.