**History of International Political Thought**

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with some tools specific to the history of political thought of the classical, modern and contemporary ages, with specific reference to its international dimension. The course focuses on the tradition of political realism, and, more generally, on the relationship between order and justice within international politics. In particular, the course analyses political thought from the most prominent authors who expressed a realistic vision of international politics from classical times up to the contemporary age.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Analyse and interpret the sources and texts of the history of international political thought;
* Distinguish the different traditions of international political thought and critically participate in complex debates;
* Illustrate the main issues of international political thought, the great authors and their works.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* Analytically read a text on the history of international political thought and place it in the appropriate historical and conceptual context of its time;
* Demonstrate knowledge of the debate on the peace and war from a historical perspective;
* Evaluate the tools and objectives of politics at the international level using critical thinking skills and appropriate vocabulary;

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course examines the theories and concepts that lie at the basis of the ideas that many authors have developed over the centuries regarding the relationship between autonomous political communities and the issue of international order. The course will focus on the tradition of political realism within the history of ancient, modern and contemporary political thought.

***READING LIST***

1. Lecture notes and material indicated in class (available on the Blackboard platform).
2. L.G. Castellin, *Sotto un cielo vuoto. Il realismo politico nella storia del pensiero internazionale,* Le Monnier Università, Firenze 2022.
3. P.P. Portinaro, *Il realismo politico,* Scholé, Brescia, 2023.

Additional study material will be indicated during the course and made available on the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is taught through frontal lectures that may be supplemented by in-depth seminars.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is an oral test to be taken on a single exam date. The oral exam aims to assess students on the texts indicated in the course programme. Students must demonstrate knowledge of authors, works and concepts of the history of international political thought, covered in the course. They must also demonstrate their ability to critically use those concepts and discuss the different traditions of international thought. Specific importance will be assigned to their mastery of language and their conscious use of the theories of the authors analysed. In this context, great importance is given to the listed readings for the exam, to be carried out thoroughly, albeit focusing attention on the topics covered in the course. The exam will assess students’ appropriate use of specific terminology, their ability to effectively organise content, to identify the specific topic of the questions asked during the exam, their ability to create conceptual links and open questions.

There is a single final mark based on the results obtained on the different points of the course programme.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require basic knowledge of the history of political thought. Those who do not have those notions can acquire them by studying a manual.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.