I. INTRODUCTION

A. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the major historical theories concerning the organization of societies and their governments. The focus of the study will be on those ideas relevant to western civilizations.

B. This course is an elective which may be used to fulfill the three-hour humanities/fine arts requirement.

II. OVERALL OR GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Upon successful completion of this course, Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy, the student will be able to:

A. Identify specific historical events, personalities, and dates of significance to western socio-political development.

B. Describe the historical context in which specific socio-political ideas evolved.

C. Describe the relationship of ideas to each other, and their significance to the modern world.

D. Identify (or form) their own attitudes and behaviors relative to current government and politics.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books
C. Instructor Reference Works:


D. Optional Student Readings . . . Instructor's Discretion


5. King, Martin Luther, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," in Lynd's *Nonviolence in America: A Documentary History*.


E. Library Resources:


5. Humanities Index (of periodic literature).


7. Social Sciences Index (of periodic literature).

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments: Each instructor should assign specific readings from the textbook and the optional readings list (or the optional text) corresponding to the topics in the Course Outline.

The instructor should also inform the students as to when the readings need to be completed. (See Section VIII, Course Outline for departmental recommendations.)
B. Projects, Reports, Papers, Journals, etc.: Each instructor should clearly inform students of requirements, options, basis of evaluation, and deadlines for such assignments. In addition, the value of the assignment to the overall grade should be stated. (The departmental recommendation is that at least 10% of the final grade be based on such work.)

C. Class Performance: Students are expected to attend class and perform to the best of their ability. The attendance policy is established by the school and requirements are outlined in the current catalog. Instructors are responsible for detailing specific class requirements.

V. EXAMINATIONS

Each instructor will detail the type and schedule of exams for their class and explain the value of each exam to the overall grade. In addition, students should be informed about the instructor's policies regarding unscheduled or missed exams.

(The departmental recommendation is that at least four such exams be given, and that the final be not more than 25% of the final course average. Additionally, the content of this course recommends itself to exams primarily essay in nature.)

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. All course work will be assigned a numerical grade. A final average will be determined using a ratio of exams and other work determined by the instructor. A letter grade will be assigned based on the final numerical average.

B. The final letter grade is based on the following numerical equivalencies:

\[
\begin{align*}
> 89 & = A \\
> 79 - 89 & = B \\
> 69 - 79 & = C \\
> 59 - 69 & = D \\
< 59 & = F
\end{align*}
\]

For example, a final average of 79.12 would be a grade of "B."

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM COURSE INSTRUCTOR

A. Withdrawal from Course: It is the student's responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. Any student who desires to, or must, officially withdraw from a course after the first scheduled class meeting must file an Application for Withdrawal or an Application for Refund. The withdrawal form
must be signed by the student. Application for Withdrawal will be accepted at any time prior to Friday of the 12th week of classes during the 16-week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for sessions of other lengths is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Length</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-week session</td>
<td>Friday of the 8th week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-week session</td>
<td>Friday of the 6th week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52-week session</td>
<td>Friday of the 4th week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The equivalent date (75% of the semester) will be used for sessions of other lengths. The specific last day to withdraw is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin.

Students who officially withdraw will be awarded the grade of "W", provided the student's attendance and academic performance are satisfactory at the time of official withdrawal. Students must file a withdrawal application with the college before they may be considered for withdrawal.

A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of "F" or "FN" for nonattendance.

B. An Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. The instructor will assign the appropriate grade on the Administrative Withdrawal Form for submission to the registrar.

C. An Incomplete Grade: The College catalog states, "An incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work but, because of personal illness, death in the immediate family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete the requirements for a course..." Prior approval from the instructor is required before the grade of "I" is recorded. A student who merely fails to show for the final examination will receive a zero for the final and an "F" for the course.

D. Disability Support Services provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Review the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

PHIL 2307
A. **Unit One**: Approaches and Beginnings

1. **Unit Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
   
   a. Recognize the scope and goals of the course.
   b. Explain the approach and methods of the textbook's author in attaining the course goals.
   c. Define philosophy and explain when, where, and why it began.
   d. Define the concepts of government and politics and explain their relationship.
   e. Describe an environment of anarchial nature.
   f. Define the concepts of:
      (1) sovereignty
      (2) legitimacy
      (3) legality
      (4) justice
      (5) morality
      (6) oligarchy
   g. Identify the characteristics of:
      (1) patriotism
      (2) anarchy
      (3) monarchy
      (4) oligarchy
      (5) democracy

2. **Learning Activities**:

   a. Background (initial assignment and subsequent discussions of unit vocabulary/concepts . . . see above)
   b. Introduction (discussion of texts Prefaces and Introductions, Wolff and Nathanson)
   c. Approaches to Study (discussion of Chapters 1, Wolff and/or Nathanson)

3. **Unit Outline**:

   a. Background
   b. Introduction
   c. Approaches to Study
   d. Unit One Exam
B. **Unit Two:** Obedience and Obligation to State Authority

1. **Unit Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Explain why the state (government) is necessary.
   b. Describe the proper role of the state in society.
   c. Describe the proper role of the citizen in society.
   d. Explain Socrates' basis of citizen obligation to the state (as described by Plato).
   e. Identify arguments (reasons) against obligation to the state.

2. **Learning Activities:**

   a. Establishment of Government (discussion of Wolff)
   b. Citizen's Obligations to Governments (Nathanson and Plato's "Crito")
   c. Limits of Citizen Obligation (Nathanson)

3. **Unit Outline:**

   a. Establishment of Government
   b. Citizens' Obligations to Government
   c. Limits of Citizen Obligation
   d. Unit Two Exam

C. **Unit Three:** Political Cynicism

1. **Unit Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Explain the basis of legitimate government authority.
   b. Describe the nature of political cynicism.
   c. Explain the basis of political cynicism.
   d. Describe variations of cynicism.
   e. Describe the political behavior of cynics.
   f. Explain the relationship between cynicism and political anarchy.

2. **Learning Activities:**

   a. Basis of Legitimate Rule (discussion of Wolff)
   b. The Basis of Political Cynicism (discussion of Nathanson and Robert Michel's "Iron Law of Oligarchy," and/or C. Wright Mills' The Ruling Elite)
c. The Nature of Political Cynicism (discussion of Nathanson and Swift's "A Modest Proposal," Chapters 1 and 5 of Lenin's "State and Revolution," or Section 1 and 3 of Gandhi's Nonviolent Resistance)

3. Unit Outline:
   a. The Basis of Political Cynicism.
   b. The Nature of Political Cynicism.
   c. Unit Three Exam
D. **Unit Four**: Liberty and Political Anarchism

1. **Unit Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Describe the limits of individual liberty and government authority.
   b. Describe the concept of political anarchism.
   c. Explain the underlying basis of anarchism.
   d. Describe the political behavior of anarchists.
   e. Explain the limits or fallacies of anarchism.

2. **Learning Activities**:

   a. The Parameters of Liberty and Authority (discussion of Wolff)
   b. The Concept of Political Anarchism (discussion of Nathanson and Garrison’s "Declaration of Sentiments")
   c. Arguments Against Political Anarchism (discussion of Nathanson and Hobbes’ *Leviathan*, chapters 17-19 or Narveson, Nozick)

3. **Unit Outline**:

   a. The Concept of Political Anarchism
   b. Arguments Against Political Anarchism
   c. Unit Four Exam

E. **Unit Five**: Individualism and Responsible Citizenship

1. **Unit Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

   a. Describe the limits of individual behavior in society.
   b. Describe the limits (conditions) of citizen obligations to the state.
   c. Explain the basis of cooperation or noncooperation with the state.
   d. Describe the various types (degrees) of citizen noncooperation.
   e. Describe the nature of revolutionary activity.
   f. Explain the possible justification of revolution.
2. **Learning Activities:**

   a. The Nature of Individualism (discussion of Wolff)
   b. Critical Citizenship (discussion of Nathanson and King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail," or Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience," or Bedau's "On Civil Disobedience")
   c. Replies and Rebuttals to Critical Citizenship (discussion of Nathanson and his "In Defense of Moderate Patriotism")
   d. Justification of Revolution (lecture and Jefferson's "Declaration of Independence," and Dahl's *After the Revolution*)

3. **Unit Outline:**

   a. Critical Citizenship
   b. Replies and Rebuttals to Critical Citizenship
   c. Justification of Revolution
   d. Unit Five Exam