

STUDY SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Subject code	Subject group	Credits	Subject certified	Subject certification valid until	Reg. No.
SPKN5008	C	6	2011 06 01	2013 06 01	

Course type (compulsory or optional)	Compulsory
Course level (study cycle)	Master
Semester the course is delivered	Spring
Study form (face-to-face or distant)	Face-to-face

Title

ŠIUOLAIKINĖS SOCIALINĖS IR POLITINĖS FILOSOFIJOS IŠTAKOS

Title in English

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Subject annotation in English

The aim of the course is to study contemporary topical problems of social and political philosophy. One of the most urgent philosophical problems are the process of becoming subject and desubjectivation, institutionalization and deinstitutionalization, critique of false consciousness and substitution of the one. Historical and modern theories related to the issues of political man, political thinking, problematic of social constructivism and essentialism, forms of power and sovereignty, symbolical worlds, criticism of spectacle society and modern forms of alienation are discussed in the seminars and lectures. After completing of the course student will be able to analyze modern social and political processes from the philosophical point of view, write papers on the topics and to use theoretical background and critical considerations for the development of master's paper. Teaching methods are lectures, seminars – discussions, home work presentations.

Necessary background knowledge for the study of the subject

Introduction to philosophy, History of philosophy, Political philosophy

Study outcomes of the subject

After the course students will get knowledge about contemporary, regular discussed problems of contemporary social and political philosophy and the language of the one. It will help for more critical and analytical understanding of contemporary social and political processes, for evaluation and understanding of origin of political power, development of modern ideological and discursive subject, possibilities of liberation of individuals. In all cases students will develop philosophical thinking about the Being of man and the political expression of the Being. The critical, reflective attitudes and skills of argumentation and comparison will be developed at the course. The discourse analysis, institutional critics, demystification will be part of critical skill of the students. All new knowledge will help students more precisely ground their individual research projects and papers.

Subject contents

The course will be paid a lot of notice to the philosophical conceptions of political man and his relations to community, society, state. The course will discuss phenomenon and origin of politics. The ideas of bio, social and political power, the questions of sovereignty and hegemony are points of the course. Theories and ideas of A. Gramsci, Frankfurt school of social research, L. Althusser, G. Deleuze, F. Guattari, M. Foucault, J. Derrida and others will be developed in

the seminars and lectures. The main critical points will be based on oppositions mystification/ demystification; creativity / hegemony; subjectivation / desubjectivation, institutionalization / deinstitutionalization, sublimation / desublimation, one dimensional man / relevant man, state / stateless, utopia / dystopia, political reality and simulacrum. The problems of development of political symbolical worlds and their relation to the horizon of consciousness, the Being of the man, horror of Nothingness and existential possibilities, trauma of human being and substituted thinking will be part of regular discussions. Some topics for seminar discussions are: idea of politics and the Being, conceptions of power and the problem of self actualization; idea of sovereignty and the historical variations on the topic; interrelations between social and political structure, function, field and arena, process and action; the nation, community and their symbolical worlds; social constructivism and social essentialism; new monadology, rational suggestions and the problem of understanding welfare.

Teaching methods

Lectures and seminars: seminars consist of students' presentations and team work; independent study between seminars.

Study hours

Lectures 30 hours, seminars 15 hours, team work 15 hours, individual work 100 hours.

Evaluation of study achievements

Assessment consists of mid-term examination – 30%, student's homework –20%, final examination – 50%.

Literature

- 1.Mickūnas, A. 2007. Demokratija šiandien. Straipsniai ir esė. V.: Versus Aureus.
- 2.Jokubaitis, A. 2005. Trys politikos aspektai: praktika, teorija, menas. V.: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla.
- 3.Jokubaitis, A. 2003. Liberalizmo tapatumo problemos. V.: Versus Aureus.
- 4.A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy. 2007. 2nd Edition. Ed. by R. E. Goodin and P. Pettit, T. Pogge. London: Blackwell Publishers.
- 5.Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Anthology. 1997. Ed. by R. E. Goodin and P. Pettit. Canberra: Australian National University. London: Blackwell Publishers.
- 6.Miller, D. 2003. Political Philosophy. A Very Short Introduction. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 7.Foucault M. 1994. *Power*. London, Allen Lane - The Penguin Press.
- 8.Althusser L. 1993. *Essays on Ideology*. London and New York: Verso.

Programme prepared by

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