Course number	U-LAS06 10016 LE42				
Course title (and course title in English)	Political Science I-E2 Political Science I-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Center for Southeast Asian Studies Associate Professor,TANGSEEFA, Decha	
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences	Field(Classification)	Jurisprudence, Politics and Economics(Foundations)		
Language of instruction	English	Old group	Group A	Number of credits	2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)	Year/semesters	2026・First semester
Days and periods	Wed.3	Target year	All students	Eligible students	For all majors

[Overview and purpose of the course]

Introduction
For this academic year, both Political Science I and II will be focusing on the political philosophy subfield. This subfield deals with perennial questions and basic problems in politics, which must continuously be examined and inquired, even though most members of political societies often consider them settled and no further arguments needed. Such questions, for example, are: What is a good life? What is a good political society? What is justice? What is power?

Toward the end of Political Science I and II, hopefully, students will: a) possess basic understanding of political philosophy, and will employ such knowledge as a guide to probe more deeply and sophisticatedly on the intertwining relations of three notions: youth, education and utopia; b) realize that the two introductory courses are very crucial not only for their quotidian lives, but also for each as a member of a political society as well as an earthling on this delicate yet fragile earth.

Issue and Approach
In general, the introduction to political philosophy taught in many countries has been dominated by the body of knowledge that only follows various traditions of the so-called “western worlds.” Hence, any attempts to discern basic political problems have predominantly been influenced by such traditions from such worlds. I myself have, to a large degree, been influenced by those traditions, too. Nonetheless, in order for our journey throughout this year to be broader, I have also chosen a few philosophical texts from some traditions of the “eastern worlds.” With limited time, however, we will be focusing only on two of the most important strands of the so-called “Chinese civilization”: classical Confucianism and classical Daoism. Altogether for this academic year, there will be three sets of issues:

Part 1: Love of Wisdom: An Answer for “What is Philosophy?”
Part 2: A Perspective on “Utopia”: Plato’s Republic
Part 3: Human Togetherness (?): Be(com)ing Humans, How should humans be?, and “The Political”

3.1 A Confucian View
3.2 Two Daoist Views
3.3 Social Contract Philosophies

While the first two parts are the contents of Political Science I, the third part is the focus of Political Science

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Political Science I-E2(2)

II. Students who intend to take only one of these two courses must be clear which tradition they would like to prioritize. If it is the “western”, they should take Political Science I. If it is the “eastern”, Political Science II is their choice.

[Course objectives]

The two courses aim to enable students:

- To understand some traditions of political philosophy at the introductory level;
- To understand certain views of political philosophy regarding youth, education, and utopia;
- To pay attention, to think and to question our quotidian lives’ surroundings by employing perspectives from political philosophy.

[Course schedule and contents)]

In this course, close reading of the texts is the key method of learning. Students will be trained - at the introductory level -- how to read philosophical texts. We will, therefore, be reading parts of each text, keeping in mind that we will be probing more deeply and sophisticatedly on:

First, the intertwining relations of the three notions: youth, education and utopia.

Second, a perspective on “Utopia”: Plato’s Republic

In the first semester, the course is divided into two parts:

- Before the midterm exam: There will be a series of lectures, preparing you to be in a sound position to later appreciate Plato's Republic. It will make you become aware of some key issues, and the value in discussing them. The lecture is, thus, to establish moments of engagement.

- After the midterm exam: We will read and discuss parts of the Republic. Hence, each student will come to each sesstion having read the text for each week’s assignment, ready to discusss in the classroom.

Week 1:
- Introduction and Course Queries

Part 1: Love of Wisdom: An Answer for “What is Philosophy?”

Week 2:
- Life, Love and Wisdom-1: What Is Life?

Week 3:
- Life, Love and Wisdom-2: Love of Wisdom: A

Week 4:
- Life, Love and Wisdom-2: Love of Wisdom: B

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Part 2: A Perspective on “Utopia": Plato’s Republic

Part 2.1: A Lecture on Plato’s Republic

Week 5:
- Plato’s Republic:
  i) Prologue
  ii) The Argument of the Republic: An Outline

Week 6:
- Plato’s Republic:
  iii) The Theory of Forms
  iv) Forms & the Good

Week 7:
- Plato’s Republic:
  v) Preparing for the Midterm Exam
  vi) Specialization and the Structure of Kallipolis
  vii) Private Life & Private Property

Week 8: Midterm Exam and Review (50%)

Part 2.2: Reading Plato’s Republic

Week 9:
- Plato. Republic. Book I

Week 10:
- Plato. Republic. Book II

Week 11:
- Plato. Republic. Book III

Week 12:
- Plato. Republic. Book IV

Week 13:
- Plato. Republic. Book V

Week 14:
- Course Summary

Week 15:
- Final Exam (50%)

Week 16:
- Feedback Session

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Political Science I-E2(4)

[Course requirements]

1) Good level of English language (TOEFL ITP score ≧525) is required (the full score is 677).
(For more information on how to convert the score, among others, see:
https://theedge.com.hk/conversion-table-for-toefl-ibt-pbt-cbt-tests/)

2) Comparatively speaking, this course is both reading-intensive and writing-intensive. Thus, any students who plan to take too many courses in this semester will have a hard time fulfilling this course ’ s requirements.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

2 Quizzes

Week 8: 50%
Week 15: 50%

Notes: Since this is a philosophical course, students will, thus, be expected to evince their philosophical understanding. The quizzes ’ questions will ask students to demonstrate their “ coming to terms ” with this course ’ s philosophical texts. Throughout the semester, therefore, each student must ensure that s/he will have a sound and solid philosophical grasp.

[Textbooks]

C.D.C.Reeve 『Plato Republic』 （Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.） ISBN:978-0872201361
Allan Bloom 『The Republic of Plato』 （Basic Books） ISBN:0-465-06934-7 （(file:https://www.scribd.com/document/639987405/Untitled) (Accessed October, 2024)）
Thomas L. Pangle and Timothy W. Burns. 『The Key Texts of Political Philosophy: An Introduction.』 （Cambridge University Press.） ISBN:978-0521185004
Jostein Gaarder 『Sophie's World: A Novel about the History of Philosophy.』 （Farrar, Straus and Giroux.） ISBN:978-0374530716

（Related URL）

https://onlinemovie.cseas.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/movie_tangseefa/(Instructor ’ s URL)

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students will study each week's prepared PowerPoint slides as well as reading assignments before class time in order to effectively engage in class discussion.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Consultations can be arranged as needed.

[Essential courses]