Course name

Social Philosophy

ECTS code

02.06-s2-EN-SP

Provider

University of Opole / Faculty of Social Sciences / Institute of Sociology

Year of the study programme, semester, academic year:

Winter semester, 2018/2019

Name of the instructor(s) & email address:

- 1. Stanisław Kijaczko, stk@uni.opole.pl
- 2. Piotr Leśniak, piotrles1@wp.pl

Forms of instruction / forms of classroom activity and ECTS credit points in relation to student's duties

A. Forms of instruction and the number of hours:

Lecture (15 h) Class (30 h)

B. Classroom activity:

Lectures and workshops in the classroom.

Students engage themselves in a given task. Students are also expected to design their classroom activities.

ECTS credits: 4

Participation in lecture: 15 h Participation in classes: 30 h

Preparation for classes and regular testing: 30 h Realization of independently performed tasks:

15 h

Contact hours: 5 h

Preparation for exam, and exam: 25 h

Total: 120 h = 4 ECTS

Course status:

Obligatory

Language of instruction:

English

Methods of instruction

- 1. Conversation lecture
- 2. Class: analysis of texts, multimedia presentation, group problem-solving, discussion.
- 3. Contact hours

Forms of crediting and basic criteria of evaluation or examination requirements.

Form of credit:

Oral exam

Credit/Grade (followed by an oral examination)

B. Forms of evaluation:

1. Lecture:

Final oral examination

2. Classes:

Attendance, knowledge of given reading, analysis of texts. In addition to reading the assigned texts students will be required to take quizzes and to write papers, and to attend class and to participate in class discussion. Two of the papers will be reaction papers of about 2 pages each. One will be an analysis paper (4 pages).

C. Basic criteria:

Quizzes: 10% Papers: 40% Final exam: 50%

Entry requirements:

There are no specific prerequisites for participation

Course objectives:

Some issues that raise questions about human sociability will be considered through a survey of influential conceptions and works from the field of social philosophy. The course themes include such special topics as standards of justice in society, individual freedom and community values, equality and competition, liberty and toleration, power and social exclusion, market and agora, deliberative and regulative democracy.

Course content:

A. Lecture:

- 1. Social philosophy: its nature and aims
- 2. The historico-philosophical background: classical ancient and medieval theories of society (Plato, Aristotle, St. Augustine, Aguinas)
- 3. Classical social contract theories (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau)
- 4. Utilitarian conceptions of society.
- 5. Classical liberalism and libertarianism
- 6. Conservative alternative to liberalism (Schmitt, Strauss, Voegelin, Bloom, Oakeshott)
- 7. Political pluralism (Berlin, Gray)
- 8. Karl R. Popper. Open society as an open question
- 9. John Rawls' contractualism. Justice as fairness
- 10. Pragmatism and social hope (Dewey, Rorty)
- 11. Communitarianism (MacIntyre, Walzer, Sandel, Etzioni)
- 12. Multiculturalism (Taylor, Kymlicka)
- 13. Religion in public life
- 14. Toleration and political correctness

Reading list

A. Obligatory reading (to get a credit):

A.1. Classes:

- 1. Plato, Republic
- 2. Th. Hobbes, Leviathan, chapter XIII: Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning their Felicity and Misery
- 3. J. S. Mill, On Liberty, chapter IV: Of the Limits to the Authority of Society over the Individual
- 4. K. Marx, Capital, vol. 1 part 1: Money and Commodities
- 5. K. R. Popper, The Open Society and Its Enemies, vol. 1, chapter X: Open Society
- 6. J. Rawls, A theory of Justice, chapter 79: The concept of well-ordered society
- 7. S. Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents: chapter IV
- 8. A. N. Whitehead, Religion in the Making, Lecture 1: Religion in History

A.2. Lectures and final exam:

- 1. The Routledge Companion to Social and Political Philosophy, ed. by G. Gaus and F. D'Agostino, Routledge, 2013
- 2. Social and Political Philosophy. Contemporary Perspectives, ed. by J. P.Sterba, Routledge, 2005 The Blackwell Guide to Social and Political Philosophy, ed. by R. L. Simon, Blackwell, 2002
- 3. J. Christman, Social and Political Philosophy. A contemporary Introduction, Routledge, 2002
- 4. J. Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (different editions)
- 5. Richard Rorty, Philosophy and Social Hope, Penguin, 2000

	Forms of evaluation	Reference to the
Effects		programme ef-
		fects

Knowledge Students - know basic terminology of social philosophy; - understand basic concepts and theories in the field of social philosophy - have an understanding of recent trends in social philosophy and of its relation to other social sciences - know the complex nature of the relation individual-society	analysis paper. Oral examination	K_W01 K_W02 K_W03 K_W09
Skills Students: - have an ability to provide arguments both spoken and written - are able to apply basic theoretical approaches to social phenomena and to interpret them critically - have the competence to use and understand professional discourse of researchers working in the field social philosophy	Reaction paper and analysis Paper. Conversation in the class. Oral examination	K_U09 K_U10 K_U13 K_U14
Social competences Students: - are ready to provide arguments both spoken and written - can understand and respect arguments of other people - can see divergences in opinion and understand them as something natural - can ask questions which help to clarify understanding of other people's train of thought. - have self-education skills	Workshop, self-evaluation, group solving-problem, different forms of discussion, individual conversation	K_K01 K_K02 K_K04 K_K06 K_K16