

Course code (filled in by the Office for Education)	
Course title	Contemporary Political Thinking
Module title	Public Governance and Political Science
Level of the Course	MA
Institute/Department responsible for course	Thomas Molnar Institute for Advanced Studies
Course director	Attila K. Molnar
Name of the Lecturer(s)	Milan Pap, Attila K. Molnar
Number of the ECTS credits	5 ECTS
Teaching methodology	Seminar
Language of instruction	English
Prerequisite(s) for the course	Fluency in English
Semester	Spring
Course description	The aim of the course is studying the contemporary political thinking. It focuses on the themes as follows: Frankfurt School; Post-modern/post-structuralist Left; H. Arendt; J. Rawls; Libertarians; Communitarians - Republicanism; Deliberative Democracy and recognition; Realism; Carl Schmitt; Leo Strauss; Michael Oakeshott.
Learning outcomes and course competences	This course aims to help students in acquiring the following capacities: - knowledge of the contemporary political thinking; - reading skills appropriate to philosophical texts; - writing skills and expressive abilities; - critical capacities, in regard to political and social thinking.
Weekly course content	1. Intro 2. Frankfurt School 3. Post-modern/post-structuralist Left 4. Post-modern/post-structuralist Left 2. 5. H. Arendt 6. John Rawls 7. Libertarians and Communitarians 8. Republicanism 9. Deliberative democracy and recognition 10. Realism 11. Realism 2. 12. Carl Schmitt 13. Leo Strauss 14. Michael Oakeshott 15. Outro and assessment
Compulsory and recommended reading materials	Compulsory reading materials: Peter Critchley: <i>A POSTMODERN MARXISM?</i> Mouffe: <i>Return of the Political</i> ; Arendt: <i>Origin of Totalitarianism</i> ; Rawls: <i>A Theory of Justice</i> Nozick: <i>Anarchy, State and Utopia</i> ; Dryzek: <i>Deliberative democracy</i> ; Galston: <i>Realism in political theory</i> ; Schmitt: <i>The concept of Political</i> ; Oakeshott: <i>Rationalism in Politics</i>

Assessment methods and criteria	<p>Required assignments</p> <p>Regular attendance is expected from all students. More than three absences will result in a failing grade for the course</p> <p>Students are required to choose one of the texts or issues to make oral and written presentations in each semester.</p> <p>The written presentations are to be at least five pages in length – double-spaced and 12-point font. Presentation has to include a short analysis of the selected text(s), pointing to its main issues, statements or questions, describing its socio-cultural context (who, when, to whom, how). The sources (bibliography) should be placed at the end of the paper.</p> <p>The paper has to be presented orally in class – max. 20 minutes in length.</p> <p>The written presentation has to be prepared before the exam period.</p>
Grading	Five Scale Grading
office hours/contact details	molnar.attila.karoly@uni-nke.hu