

## **Political Theory and its Application in Contemporary Society Syllabus**

### *Prerequisites:*

- While having prior political knowledge will help students have a better grasp of the topics being discussed, no prior knowledge is strictly required. However, having an informed understanding of current events or topics to be discussed within the class can aid in the informed discussions we'll have each day of the course.

### *Expectations:*

- Maintain a level of respect and seriousness that is appropriate for class discussions and daily instruction. Due to the nature of this class, dialogue and critical thinking will be required during lessons and discussion periods.

### *Overview:*

#### Topic 1: Systems of Government

- Basic branches of government and their respective functions
- Unitary vs. federal states
- Democratic vs. authoritarian regimes

#### Topic 2: Campaigns/Elections

- Campaign finance
- How national & local elections work
- Gerrymandering
- Civil society & interest groups

#### Topic 3: Political Ideology & Presentations

- Conservatism vs. Liberalism
- Political socialization
- Debates around the role of government in society
- Student presentations

### *Course Goal:*

- At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to have an insight into various political debates that play on the world stage today. Moreover, they will have a better understanding of how different governments around the world function with respect to the relevant topics each day. Students will become more knowledgeable about underlying political functions around the world and better informed about real-world events and their

associated implications. However, the most important purpose of this class is to instill a level of confidence within each individual student that leads them to continue pursuing political science and seeking to learn more about the fascinating world around them.