# Course Outcome Summary

## General Education Satisfier Course

## POLSC 158 Introduction to Political Theory

**MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### Course Information

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| Division | **Humanities and Social Sciences** |
| Contact Hours | **45** |
| Total Credits | **3** |

**Prerequisites**      RDG 090 and ENGL 090 or qualifying scores on accepted placement tests

### Course Description

This course surveys the great western political thinkers and their ideas regarding justice. From Plato's Republic to Rawl's Theory of Justice, this course traces the development of western political thought from Ancient Greece to contemporary America. Students will learn how contemporary ideas regarding justice developed from ancient societies, how these ideas influenced historical change, and the diverse cultural background of these ideas (e.g. Ancient Greek, Italian, French, British, and American). Students will also learn how to reflect critically on these complex ideas, relating them to contemporary political issues, engaging in a normative critique of contemporary political and social institutions, and expressing these reflections through both oral and written communication. This course is a satisfier course for the Global Studies Degree Designation.

**This course is approved as a General Education competency satisfier.**

**General Education Goal:** Social and Cultural Awareness
**Competency:** Understand the processes that influence human values, thoughts, social systems, and behavior.
**Learning Outcome:** Students will examine the impact of social factors on personal beliefs, while considering alternatives to the dominant culture's viewpoint.

### General Education Learning Objectives

A.  **Recognize the processes by which individuals acquire social knowledge attitudes and beliefs.**
B.  **Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.**
C.  **Demonstrate Knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.**
D.  **Demonstrate Knowledge of at least one systematic method for obtaining knowledge about social influences according to a recognized social science discipline.**

## Course Outcomes

In order to evidence success in this course, the students will be able to:

1. Identify and explain the general development of Western political ideas.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   A. Recognize the processes by which individuals acquire social knowledge attitudes and beliefs.
   B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.

2. Critically analyze the strengths and weaknesses of different conceptions of justice.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

3. Understand and explain the difference between analytic and Continental political philosophy.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   D. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one systematic method for obtaining knowledge about social influences according to a recognized social science discipline.

4. Identify and understand the Socratic Method.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   D. Demonstrate Knowledge of at least one systematic method for obtaining knowledge about social influences according to a recognized social science discipline.

5. Identify the distinction between political justice and ethical life.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

6. Understand, explain, and reflect critically on the Western emphasis on reason/rationality.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

7. Understand and explain the foundational ideas of Classical political theories of justice.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

8. Understand and explain the foundational ideas of realist theories of political justice.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

9. Understand and explain the foundational ideas of socialist theories of political justice.
   *Applies to General Education Objective*
   B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the students own.

10. Understand and explain the foundational ideas of liberal theories of political justice.
    *Applies to General Education Objective*
    B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
    C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

11. Understand and explain the distinction between the classical, realist, liberal, and socialist, and offer critical analyses of these theories.
    *Applies to General Education Objective*
    B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
    C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.
    D. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one systematic method for obtaining knowledge about social influences according to a recognized social science discipline.

12. Understand and explain competing social contract theories.
    *Applies to General Education Objective*
    B. Recognize major influences on social behavior and social systems.
    C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

13. Understand the methodological limits to human understanding.
    *Applies to General Education Objective*
    C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.
    D. Demonstrate knowledge of at least one systematic method for obtaining knowledge about social influences according to a recognized social science discipline.

14. Understand and explain key theoretical developments from the ancient and medieval world.
     *Applies to General Education Objective*
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

15. Understand and explain key theoretical developments in concepts of political justice during the Age of Enlightenment.
     *Applies to General Education Objective*
     C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.

16. Understand and explain key theoretical developments in concepts of political justice during the contemporary/modern age.
     *Applies to General Education Objective*
   C. Demonstrate knowledge of human diversity including characteristics of a culture outside the student's own.