

TO: Spring 2025 Curriculum Committee

FROM: Prof. Jacob Segal, Chair, Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science

DATE: March 12th, 2025

RE: Change in Course Description and Course Title for Course Pol 5000: Clash of Political Ideas: Introduction to Political Theory

The Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science is proposing a change in Course Description and Course title for Course Pol 5000: Clash of Political Ideas: Introduction to Political Theory

FROM:

Clash of Political Ideas: Introduction to Political Theory

Selected major political philosophers from Plato to Machiavelli from Locke and Rousseau to Hegel and Marx. What are the bases for political leadership, political obligation, majority rule and minority rights

TO:

Introduction to Political Theory

This course explores essential questions of political life, such as: What is freedom? Who has the right to rule? What is human nature? and What kind of government do we deserve? We examine these questions in the context of various cultures and historical periods, engaging with ideas such as equality, freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

Rationale for Change:

The new title emphasizes the introductory quality of the course, and the new description is focused on concepts and not philosophers. We think this makes the course more attractive to students and is captures better the emphasis of the course on ideas.