What is political thought, or political philosophy?
- Attempts of great thinkers to answer questions of their day.
- Example of the key questions:
  o What are limits of government authority?
    ▪ Balance between individual liberty v. the state
    ▪ Citizens’ social and political obligations
    ▪ Balance between freedom v. equality
  o What is the best way to organize political regimes?
    ▪ Federalism
    ▪ National identity
  o What is the role of politics in daily life?
    ▪ What level of participation is required?
    ▪ How do we manage conflicts?

What is American political thought?
- American liberalism
  o Strengths and simultaneous shortcomings (i.e., inequalities).
  o Do liberal ideas dominate?

Theme of course: Role of ideas and ideologies in American politics