

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 377  
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY  
3 CREDIT HOURS  
FALL SEMESTER, 2009**

206 UNIVERSITY CENTER  
Tu Night 6:00 P.M.- 9:00 P.M.

JIM CARTER  
496F CHSS BUILDING  
936-294-1461  
POL\_JLC@SHSU.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 10:00A.M.--11:00A.M.  
TuTh 12:30P.M.--1:30P.M.

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the history of western political philosophy. To that end, representative political writings ranging from the time of Plato to the twentieth century will be surveyed. The approach of the course is both historical and philosophical. Political ideas will be addressed in their original historical context as well as independently of any particular historical or cultural limitations.

**Course Structure:**

Lecture/discussion; essay exams; a written project.

**Course Objectives:**

- Students will gain factual knowledge (terminology), classifications, methods, trends).
- Students will learn fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories.
- Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to personal values.
- Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
- Students will acquire an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.

**Required Textbooks:**

Donald Tannenbaum and David Schultz, Inventors of Ideas, Wadsworth, 2003.

William Richter, Approaches to Political Thought, Rowman and Littlefield, 2009.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance requirements are compatible with Academic Policy Statement 800401. Students should review that policy statement for a more detailed explanation of attendance policy.

**Exams and Grading Plan:**

There will be three major tests. The tests will each be worth 25% of the grade in the course. The tests will be essay in nature. Cumulatively, these three tests will equal 75% of the grade in the course.

Participation in this class is expected. Proper preparation for each class is required. The nature of the subject lends itself to class discussion, argument, and disagreement. Consequently, 5% of your grade in the course will come from an evaluation of your class participation.

**Academic Honesty:**

Academic dishonesty policies for this class are compatible with Academic policy Statement 810213. Students with any questions should consult that statement for more details.

**ADA:**

Policies for this class are compatible with the Americans for Disabilities Act, and students with any questions should work with the Professor to alleviate any difficulties.

**Religious Holidays:**

Religious Holidays are respected.

**Instructor Evaluations:**

Students will be asked to complete course/instructor evaluation forms toward the end of the semester.

**Written Assignments:**

Each student will be required to keep a reading journal devoted to the political ideas of one of the philosophers considered during the semester. The subject of the journal will be selected randomly at the first class meeting. The reading journal will consist of several parts. Each part will be graded separately and will be cumulatively considered at the end of the semester to constitute the total grade on the project. Journal entries will be turned in 3 times during the semester. The final section will present a summary evaluation of the importance of the ideas of the political philosopher for modern times and the future. Each section will be worth 1/3 of the grade on the journal and the journal as a whole will be worth 20% of the grade in the course. Each student will also be expected to be the class "expert" when their particular philosopher is the subject of class discussion. The performance in this regard also will be reflected in each student's grade on the research project.

**Required Supplies:**

No supplies are needed for this course unless we are talking about notebooks, pens and pencils, scantrons, etc.

**Tentative Topical Outline:**

The following is a tentative topical outline for the course. NOTE: Periodically, we will read and discuss approximately one chapter of William Richter's book and there will be test questions taken from the Richter readings.

- I. Introduction to the Study of Political Philosophy
- II. Ancient Political Philosophy
- III. Medieval Political Philosophy
- IV. The Renaissance
- V. The Reformation
- VI. The Enlightenment
- VII. Romanticism, Conservatism, Empiricism, Positivism
- VIII. The 20th Century

**CONCEPTS LIST**

1. Nature of man
2. Theory of Reality
3. Nature of the State

4. Right, Privileges, Duties of Citizens
5. Purpose of the State
6. Justice
7. Education
8. Equality
9. Property
10. Law

**Tentative Course Outline:**

Tuesday, August 25, 2009	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> ; Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i>
Tuesday, September 1, 2009	St. Augustine, <i>The City of God</i> ; St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i>
Tuesday, September 8, 2009	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> ; Jean Bodin, <i>Six Books on the Republic</i>
Tuesday, September 15, 2009	Martin Luther, <i>On Secular Authority</i> ; John Calvin, <i>The Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>
Tuesday, September 22, 2009	Montesquieu, <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i> ; Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>
Tuesday, September 29, 2009	Richard Hooker, <i>Laws of the Ecclesiastical Polity</i> ; John Locke, <i>The Second Treatise on Government</i>
Tuesday, October 6, 2009	TEST 1; Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i>
Tuesday, October 13, 2009	James Harrington, <i>Oceana</i> ; Edmund Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>
Tuesday, October 20, 2009	Jeremy Bentham, <i>Fragment on Government</i> ; David Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>

Tuesday, November 3, 2009	Thomas Jefferson, <i>Works</i> ; Auguste Comte, <i>Positivism</i>
Tuesday, November 10, 2009	TEST 2; G.W.F. Hegel, <i>Philosophy of Right</i>
Tuesday, November 17, 2009	Herbert Spencer, <i>Social Statics</i> ; V. I. Lenin, <i>State and Revolution</i>
Tuesday, November 24, 2009	Karl Marx, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
Tuesday, December 1, 2009	Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Also Sprach Zarathustra</i>
Tuesday, December 8, 2009	Last Class Day--T. H. Green, <i>Lectures on the Principal of Political Obligation</i> ; Hannah Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i> ; <i>Review</i>
December 14-17	Final Exams

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances. Cell phones and other typical disturbances should be reserved for emergencies.