

POLITICAL SCIENCE 377.01
INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY
3 CREDIT HOURS
Fall 2008

LOCATION OF CLASS MEETING: AB1, Room 302

CLASS MEETING TIME: MWF, 11:00 – 11:40 am

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jim Carter

OFFICE LOCATION: AB1 315B

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION: Phone – 936-294-1461, e-mail - pol_jlc@shsu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: MWF, 10:00 – 11:00 am; TTH, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the history of western political philosophy by surveying representative political writings ranging from the time of Plato to the twentieth century. 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.

PREREQUISITES: POL 261

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Introduce students to history of western political ideas
- Provide students an opportunity to develop or further evolve their own ideas about politics, government, and the values that they wish to be reflected in and/or achieved by their government.
- Further develop students' analytical and critical thinking skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

TANNENBAUM, D. and David Schultz, *Inventors of Ideas*, St. Martin's Press, most recent edition
ARENDR, Hanna, *Essays in Understanding, 1930-1954*

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class. Students who attend class will perform better than students who do not.

Students are encouraged to attend class.

EXAMS:

- There will be three major tests in this course. Each tests will be worth 25% of the grade in the course. Each test will be essay in nature. Cumulatively these three tests will equal 75% of the grade in the course.
- In addition to the tests, each student will be required to write a research paper on the political ideas of one of the philosophers considered during the semester. The subject of the paper will be selected randomly at the first class meeting. Each student will 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 students' grade.

- Each student will read an original work by the political philosopher randomly assigned to them.
- A weekly reading diary of notes, thoughts, and insights will be kept over the course of the semester. Students will turn in their reading diary in three parts at three different points in the semester. On each date of submission, students will have read 1/3 of the work assigned. The periodic reports will include – pages read, notes taken, thoughts triggered/inspired, satisfactions/dissatisfactions, and any other commentary the student may wish or need to make.
- Cumulatively, the reports will equal to 20% of the course grade and class participation will constitute 5%.
- Missed exams for legitimate purposes may be made up.
- Make ups are the responsibility of the student who missed the exam. If you missed an exam you must take the initiative to set up a make up.
- Make ups will always differ from regular exams in both content and format.
- All make ups must be taken before the last regular class meeting.

GRADING:

The final course grade will be precisely calculated by adding up all of the individual scores on various tests and projects taking into account the varying weights assigned to each score and then performing various traditional mathematical operations on those scores to arrive at a correct evaluation.

The grading scale for this course is the traditional 10 point difference between ABCDF.

The following information is covered on the SHSU web page at: <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused on any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials (Academic Policy Statement 810213). The penalty of any of the above will result in a zero on that work, could result in the failing of the course and will be accompanied by a letter to the Dean of Students.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

*Students requesting accommodations are responsible for initiating this process. The student must go to and request these accommodations in a timely manner with the Counseling Center and obtain certification of the disability.

Religious Holidays:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU ID card to be permitted to the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Classroom Rules of Conduct:

According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Not conforming to this directive could result in being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action according to the above SHSU policy.

Instructor Evaluations

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

COURSE OUTLINE – The following is a *tentative topical outline* for the course and a schedule of readings.

- I. **Introduction to the Study of Political Philosophy, Introduction:** H.A. essays 1, 24, 28
- II. **Ancient Political Philosophy:** H.A. essays 44, 66, 69
- III. **Medieval Political Philosophy:** H.A. essays 106, 133, 156
- IV. **The Renaissance:** H.A. essays 163, 188, 194
- V. **The Reformation:** H.A. essays 228, 285, 297

- VI. **The Enlightenment:** H.A. essays 307, 328, 368
- VII. **Romanticism, Conservatism, Empiricism, Positivism:** H.A. essays 401, 409
- VIII. **The 20th Century:** H.A. essays 423, 428

The following is a more or less chronological listing of the most important political philosophers from Plato to the present. Next to each is noted either their single most important political book or one of their most important political works.

Plato, *The Republic*
 Aristotle, *The Politics*
 St. Augustine, *The City of God*
 St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*
 Machiavelli, *The Prince*
 Jean Bodin, *Six Books on the Republic*
 Martin Luther, *On Secular Authority*
 John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*
 Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*
 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
 Richard Hooker, *Laws of the Ecclesiastical Polity*
 John Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*
 Rousseau, *The Social Contract*
 James Harrington, *Oceana*
 Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
 Jeremy Bentham, *Fragment on Government*
 David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*
 Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*
 John Stuart Mill, *On Representative Government*
 Thomas Jefferson, *Works*
 Auguste Comte, *Positivism*
 G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*
 Herbert Spencer, *Social Statics*
 V.I. Lenin, *State and Revolution*
 Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*
 Fredrick Nietzsche, *Also Sprach Zarathustra*
 T. H. Green, *Lectures on the Principal of Political Obligation*
 Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

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