

POL 562
SEMINAR IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
DR. CARTER-SPRING 2008

TEXTS:

Joseph Losco and Leonard Williams Political Theory, Vol I, 2nd edition
Joseph Losco and Leonard Williams Political Theory, Vol II, 2nd edition

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the history of western political philosophy. Representative political writings ranging from the time period before Plato to the twenty-first century will be surveyed, analyzed, and evaluated. The approach of the course is both historical and philosophical. Political ideas and values will be addressed in their original historical context as well as independently of any particular historical or cultural limitation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

TESTS:

There will be two major tests, a midterm and a final. Each test will constitute 25% of the course grade and will cumulatively count for 50% of the grade in the course.

RESEARCH JOURNAL:

Each student will choose in consultation with the instructor a prominent political philosophy/philosopher for an individual research project. Students will be assigned/select an original, major work of the philosopher to read and report on during the course of the semester.

Students will periodically turn in reports from a Research Journal. The reports from the Research Journal will be due three times during the semester. At the time of each report, students should have read approximately 1/3 of the work selected.

Journal Reports will contain:

- (1) the pages and chapters read to that point in time;
- (2) a list of subjects addressed within the pages read;
- (3) notes, analyses, insights, agreements and disagreements with the author;
- (4) other commentaries and summations as are warranted by the reading.

Each Research Journal report will constitute 10% of the grade in the course. Cumulatively they will equal to 30% of the grade in the course.

PRESENTATIONS:

On each day the written Research Journal report is due, class presentations and discussion on the Research Journal reports will also take place.

Each class presentation should include a one page handout for the other students and professor, a five minute oral presentation and a ten minute question and answer period.

Class presentations will constitute 10% of the course grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: See Academic policy Statement 800401. Any attendance policy in this class will be in accordance with that statement.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: See Academic Policy Statement 810213. Any actions taken with regard to academic dishonesty in this course will be in accordance with that statement.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS AND HOLY DAYS: See University Policy 8161001. Any needs related to students religious requirements will be considered within the requirements of that statement.

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

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

Any actions taken with regard to student conduct will be in accordance with that statement of policy.

TENTATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED CLASS READINGS:

1. Pre-Platonic -- L & W, Ch. 1-3
2. Plato -- L & W, Ch. 4-7
3. Aristotle -- L & W, Ch. 8-11
4. Philosophies of Transition and Roman Political Ideas -- L & W, Ch. 12-14
5. Saint Augustine -- L & W, Ch. 15-17
6. Saint Thomas Aquineas -- L & W, Ch. 18-21
7. Christine de Pizan and Simone de Beauvoir -- L & W, Ch. 22-25 and Ch. 40-42
8. Machiavelli -- L & W, Ch. 26-29

9. Luther and Calvin -- TBA
10. Thomas Hobbes -- L & W, Ch. 5-7
11. John Locke -- L & W, Ch. 8-10
12. Rousseau -- L & W, Ch. 11-14
13. Utilitarians -- L & W, Ch. 31-35
14. GWF Hegel -- L & W, ch. 21-24
15. Friedrich Nietzsche -- L & W, Ch. 36-39