

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 377**  
**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY**  
3 CREDIT HOURS

SPRING, 2008 - AB1 302 - MWF 2:00 – 3:00 PM

JIM CARTER

AB1, 315B

EXT. 41461

POL\_JLC@SHSU.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 1:00-2:00; TTH 2:00 – 3:00

**TEXTS:**     **TANNENBAUM, D. and DAVID SCHULTZ. INVENTORS OF IDEAS.**  
**ST. MARTINS PRESS, MOST RECENT EDITION.**  
**DIEGO A. VON VACANO, THE ART OF POWER.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the history of western political philosophy. For that purpose, representative political writings ranging from the time of Plato to the twentieth century will be sampled and surveyed. The approach of this 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 REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

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 maintain and turn in a “reading journal” based on their own analysis and evaluation of one of the political philosophers considered during the course of the semester. The subject of the paper will be assigned randomly at the first class meeting. Each student will be expected to be the class “expert” when their particular political philosopher is the subject of class discussion. The performance in this regard will also be reflected at some level in each person’s grade for this particular project.

Each student will read an original work by the political philosopher randomly assigned to them.

Each student will maintain a weekly reading diary of notes, thoughts, analyses, evaluations, and insights concerning the political ideas expressed by the philosopher for each week of the sixteen week 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 three periodic reports will include- pages read, notes taken, thoughts triggered/inspired, agreements and disagreements with the philosopher, and any other commentary the student may wish or need to make.

Cumulatively the three reports will equal to 20% of the grade in the course.

Class participation in general will constitute 5%.

**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.

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

Do not read R. J. Hollingdale's introduction, pages 11-35.

- I. **Introduction to the Study of Political Philosophy, Introduction:** T&S, Ch. 1, VV
- II. **Ancient Political Philosophy:** T&S, Ch. 2-5, VV
- III. **Medieval Political Philosophy:** T&S, Ch. 6-8, VV
- IV. **The Renaissance:** T&S, Ch. 9, VV
- V. **The Reformation:** T&S, Ch. 10, VV
- VI. **The Enlightenment:** T&S, Ch. 11-13, VV
- VII. **Romanticism, Conservatism, Empiricism, Positivism:** T&S, Ch. 14-17, VV
- VIII. **The 20<sup>th</sup> Century:** T&S, Ch. 18-19, VV

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