



STARK STATE COLLEGE

GENERAL SYLLABUS

Course Information

Course Name: Introduction to Political Thought
Course Number: PSC230

Required Materials

Textbook(s): Donald G. Tannenbaum with Briana L. McGinnis, Inventors of Ideas: Introduction to Political Thought (4th ed.) Cengage 2024

Required Readings: See weekly calendar below

Additional Materials: Optional materials are posted on the LMS

Course Outline/Calendar

The date of coverage and order of coverage may be modified based on the faculty member and events beyond the control of faculty members that interfere with class times and teaching.

Week	Chapter/Topic/Lab
1	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 1, "The History of Political Thought: Introducing the Challenge"
2	Reading assignments and topics: Ch. 2, "Plato: Navigating Justice"; Ch. 3, "Aristotle: The Good City"
3	Reading assignments and topics: Ch. 4, "Cicero: Citizenship and the Republic"; Ch. 5, "Augustine: Living Together"
4	Reading assignments and topics: Ch. 6, "Aquinas: Reconciling Human and Divine"; Ch. 7, "Luther and Calvin: Reconfiguring Authority"
5	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 8, "Machiavelli: Theorizing Power"
6	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 9, "Christine de Pizan: Difference and Equality"
7	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 10, "Hobbes: Keeping Promises, Keeping Order"
8	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 11, "al-Farabi: Philosophy of Society"
9	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 12, "Locke: The Social Contract and its Limits"
10	Reading assignments and topics: Ch. 13, "Rousseau: Making the Good Citizen"; Ch. 14, "Mary Wollstonecraft: Turning Toward Equality"
11	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 15, "Burke: Change and Tradition"
12	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 16, "Mill and Taylor Mill: Advancing Liberty"
13	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 17, "Marx: Class Conflict, History, and Political Economy"
14	Reading assignment and topic: Ch. 18, "Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud: Critical Perspectives"
15	Reading assignments and topics: Ch. 19, "Twentieth Century: Liberalism and Its Critics"; Ch. 20, "Political Thought in the 21 st Century"
16	Final Exam Week