

## **Inventors of Political Ideas (PSI 2208)**

Peter Schimert

**Methods:** Lecture and discussion.

**Goals:** 1. To expose the student to some of the major political thinkers of European civilization; 2. To increase the student's understanding of various sources of European political thought.

**Required Reading:** Brief statements and arguments by a variety of political thinkers on some of the major problems of European history and political thought. The selections will be taken from William O. Ebenstein and Alan O. Ebenstein, *Great Political Thinkers: Plato to the Present*. Sixth edition.

**Course Requirements:** Each student will be expected to attend classes regularly, do the assigned readings, take the quizzes on the readings, contribute to the class discussions, as well as take the midterm and the final examination.

**Evaluation:** Grades will be determined in the following manner:

Contributions to the class discussions and quizzes	30%
Midterm Test	30%
Final Examination	40%

### **Schedule of Lectures, Reading Assignments and Discussions:**

Introduction

Ancient Greece and Greek Philosophy

The Ideal Political Community: Plato, *The Republic* (30-47)

Plato, *The Republic* (47-73)

The Political Systems of the Ancient Greek World: Aristotle, *Politics* (85-100)

Aristotle, *Politics* (100-115)

Ancient Rome

Roman Government: Polybius, *The Histories* (119-126) and Cicero, *The Republic* and *The Laws* (131-140)

Stoicism: Epictetus, *Discourses* and *Manual* (151-156); Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (157-167)

Medieval Political Thought: St. Augustine, *City of God* (186-198) and St. Thomas Aquinas, *On Kingship* and *Summa Theologica* (230-244)

The Renaissance: Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (291-301)

The Reformation: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (364-379)

\* \* \* **Midterm Test!** \* \* \*

The Enlightenment: John Locke (389-407) and Montesquieu (413-421)

The Enlightenment: David Hume (428-441) and Immanuel Kant (477-491)

The Enlightenment: Jean Jaques Rousseau (452-472)

Classical Liberal Economics: Adam Smith (498-503) and Conservatism:  
Edmund Burke (513-532)

Democracy: Alexis de Toqueville (564-577)

Liberalism: John Stuart Mill (586-623)

New Morality: Friedrich Nietzsche (694-707)

Revolution: Lenin (680-687) and Fascism: Mussolini (712-720)

Non-violence: Mohandas K. Gandhi (742-753)

The End of *Laissez-Faire*: John Maynard Keynes (794-805)

The Limits of the State: Friedrich Hayek (825-835)

Capitalism and Freedom: Milton Friedman (840-847)

\* \* \* **Final Examinations!** \* \* \*

**Please Note:** This class will be conducted in strict observance of the Honor Code. In order to be graded all written work must include the student's signature on the honor pledge: *I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this work, nor have I knowingly tolerated any violation of the honor code.*