

## The Art of Thinking Politically

**Type of course and reader:** Lecture course held by Jozef Zelinka, doctoral candidate.

**Description of the course:** Due to the variety of traditional as well as emerging theoretical approaches used in political sciences, the course seeks to provide the participants with the necessary methodological tools that enhance the ability to distinguish, understand, and make use of these diverse methods. During the course the emphasis will be put on three major scientific perspectives - normative, descriptive and positivist, respectively. Each of these approaches will be analyzed from different points of view. First of all, the history of political thought should give a brief look at the roots of the particular approach. Secondly, political philosophy will bring about specific objects related to each of the mentioned perspective. In the next step, the epistemological methods of analyze will be discussed. Last but not least, the ground for each of the perspectives will be generalized in terms of political theory. Throughout the course, various political challenges - among them the future of the European Union, the security context at the beginning of the 21-st century or the facet of the changing social structure - will be open to the debate. The focus on the way how to think politically and avoid common mistakes should approve the ability of the participants to reach scientifically relevant, objective and valid outcomes.

**Time and place:** Thursday 8-10 a.m.; Room 100.4 - Scharnhorststraße 100

**Preconditions:** (i) Completing of the basic course "Introduction to the Political Theory", or of other thematically related course in political theory;  
(ii) Basic English skills (The course is being offered in English).

**Evaluation:** An essay on chosen topic (4000-5000 words), with three possible time-variants of submitting it during the semester:

- (i) In a fixed term set by the teacher;
- (ii) In a fixed term set by you;
- (iii) Without a fixed term.

**Selected Literature:**

- Anscombe, G.E.M. (1958): Modern Moral Philosophy
- Comte, A. (1848): A General View of Positivism
- Horkheimer, M. (1975): Traditional and Critical Theory
- Freeden, M. (2009): Failures of political thinking
- Tinder, G. (1974): Political Thinking