

L32 PolSci 391

History of Political Thought I: Justice, Virtue and Soul

T/R 10:00-11:30

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-3:30 in Seigle 250 or by appointment

Email: lkrall@artsci.wustl.edu

Umrath 140

Course description:

This course offers a critical introduction to the main issues and debates in western political theory, including but not limited to the topics of justice, legitimacy, equality, democracy, liberty, sovereignty, and the role of history in the political and social world. This course is designed to be the first in a three-semester sequence on the history of political thought, and students are encouraged, but not required, to take the courses in chronological sequence. The first semester begins with ancient Greek political thought, and follows its development up to the early 16th century.

Book list (required):

Aristotle, *The Politics*. Trans. Carnes Lord. University of Chicago Press.

The Republic of Plato. Trans. Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 2nd ed.

Augustine. *Political Writings*. Trans. Michael W. Tkacz and Douglas Kries. Hackett.

Thomas Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics*. 2nd Ed. Trans. Richard J. Regan. Hackett.

Machiavelli, *The Prince* Trans. Daniel Donno. Bantam.

Cicero, *The Republic and the Laws*. Oxford University Press, July 2009. Trans. Niall Rudd.

Course reserves on Ares: <http://ares.wustl.edu/ares/>

Grading:

Class participation: 15 %

Final exam (take home): 25 %

Paper 1: 30% (7-8 pages)

Paper 2: 30% (7-8 pages)

Course Schedule:

1/15 Introduction

1/17 Thucydides, selection, available on Ares

1/22 Plato, Books 1 and 2, initial paper due

1/24 Plato, Books 3 and 4

1/29 Plato, Books 5 and 6

1/31 Plato, Books 7 and 8

2/5 Plato, Books 9 and 10

2/7 Aristotle, *The Ethics* (<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html>): Book 1, Chapters 1-4, Book 2: Chapters 1 and 2; Book 5 (entire); Book 7: Chapters 1 and 2; Book 10: Chapters 6-9.

2/12 Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 1, Book 2, 1-5.

2/14 Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 3, Book 4, 1-11.

2/19 Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 7.

2/21 Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 5, 1-4 and 8-9; Book 8. paper 1 prompts

2/26 Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* <http://drama.eserver.org/plays/classical/aristophanes/lysistrata.txt>

2/28 Aristophanes, *Ecclesiazusae* <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristophanes/eccles.html>

3/5 Cicero, *The Republic*, Book I

3/7 Cicero, *The Republic*, Book III, IV, V, VI

3/8 no class; paper 1 due

3/19 Cicero, *On the Laws*, Book 1 and 121-128

3/21 Augustine, 58-70, 78-82, 883-91, 95-109

3/25 Augustine, 110-122, 140-163

3/28 Class canceled. Read selections from Averroes and Maimonides, available at Ares. Short response due next class.

4/2 Augustine, 184-201, 202-212, 248-256, paper 2 prompts

4/4 Aquinas, 1-20, 40-50

4/9 Aquinas, 51-73, 97-110

4/11 Aquinas, 111-126, 173-196

4/16 Machiavelli, *The Prince*

4/17 no class; paper 2 due

4/18 Machiavelli, *The Prince*

4/23 Machiavelli, Discourses: Book I: preface, chs. 1–6, 9–12, 16–18, 27, 34, 55, 58; bk. II: preface, chs. 1–3; bk. III: chs. 1, 8–9. (http://www.constitution.org/mac/disclivly_.htm)

4/25 Course summary

Take home final

Class policies: No laptops permitted in class. Please see me if you would like to request an exception.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory; if you miss more than 2 classes without an official excuse, such as from a doctor, your participation grade will be lowered.

Participation: Active participation is expected. This requires a thorough reading and rereading of the text as well as careful reflection on the text. Come to class with questions. Your class participation grade will take into account not only on the quantity, but also the quality of your comments. If you are uncomfortable talking in class A) make an effort; B) you may email me a paragraph response to the reading and discussion so that your participation grade will not suffer.

Papers: Turn in all papers to me in hard copy as well as via email. If I do not receive a paper with you on the due date in both forms, your paper will be late until I do receive it in both forms. Each day that the paper is late, your final grade will be reduced by 1/3 of a letter grade (so if you would have gotten a B on the paper, one day late you would receive a B-). Please see me in advance if you have extenuating circumstances.

Paper layout: Your papers should be typed, double spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins. Citations of the text should be in a scholarly form (such as Chicago or MLA). Avoid colloquial phrases. If you are unsure of how to proceed, contact me or the writing center. I recommend running your paper topic by me during office hours; this is often helpful when you're in the middle of writing, but I can talk to you at any point. I will not read drafts of your paper; however, you should bring a one-page outline of your paper to my office hours.

Plagiarism: Academic honesty is critical. If you use a source for your paper, you must cite that source in the works cited. In addition, you must include a citation within the text of the paper itself. Direct quotations must be placed in quotation marks and cited. Plagiarism will not be tolerated—if I detect plagiarism, I will recommend that you receive a zero for the class. In addition, do not use wikipedia in your paper.

Grading: If you want to discuss the grade you've received on a particular assignment, 1) I require a written explanation of your reasons for asking for your grade to be reconsidered; 2) You must realize that your grade can go up or down when I reconsider it.

Rubric for paper grades:

A—An A paper will offer an strong, clear, nuanced, and persuasive argument, supported by the text. The organization will be clear and tight—each paragraph will follow in logical progression,

each one tied back to the thesis. Quotations will be used to support the arguments; they will be integrated into the text of the paper and explained. The writing will be of high quality, with few grammatical errors.

B—A B paper will offer a strong argument, supported by the text. There will be small problems with either the organization, the integration of quotations, the grammar or the thesis and thesis development.

C—A C paper offers an argument that may miss some nuances, but is generally an accurate reflection of the text. There may be some serious problems with the organization, quotation integration, and/or grammar.

D—A D paper has serious problems with organization, writing, the paper's argument and/or grammar.

Initial assignment:

Please prepare a brief reflection on the nature of democracy. What is democracy? What are its strengths and weaknesses? Overall, is democracy advisable or inadvisable?

This assignment is due on Tuesday, January 22nd. Please bring it to class in hard copy. It should be no more than two pages double spaced. It will be part of your class participation grade. There is no need for you to refer to or cite external sources. Citing more than two is prohibited.