

History of Political Thought I: Justice, Virtue and the Soul

Political Science 391; Spring 2012

M/W 2:30-4 PM; Lab Sciences 201

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Office Hours:
Friday 1:30-2:30
and by appointment.

TA

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Tuesdays 3:00-4:30 pm
Seigle 257

Course Description

This course introduces the student 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. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take these courses in chronological sequence. This first semester begins with ancient Greek political thought, and follows its development up to the early sixteenth century.

Course Books

Books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. You may use other versions of the text, but you will find it helpful to use these particular editions since we will regularly refer to them in class.

Listed in order of their use.

- Plato, *The Republic*. Ed., Ferrari, G.R.F., Trans., Griffith, T. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought (New York: Cambridge University Press) 2005. , 0-521-48443
- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. by M. Ostwald, (New York: Library of Liberal Arts, 1962 , 0-02-389530-6
- Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*. Stephen Everson, Editor, (New York: Cambridge University Press) 1996. 0-521-48400-6
- Cicero, *On the Commonwealth and On the Laws*. Ed., Zetzel. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought (New York: Cambridge University Press) 1999. 0-521-45959.
- Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., translator (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) 1998 0-226-50043-8

Other readings designated with an asterisk are available via ARES.

Course Requirements

10% Participation

Your participation will be comprised of the following components:

- 1) Complete all the assigned reading.
- 2) *On Time Attendance* at each class is required: **if you miss more than 4 classes you will be asked to withdraw from the course or take a failing grade.**
- 3) Study Questions: you are expected to have some thoughtful ideas (but not necessarily a correct answer) if called on.
- 4) Thoughtful participation
- 5) Attendance at any discussion session is optional but will count towards your participation grade
- 6) **Please note:** Quizzes at my discretion will contribute or detract from Attendance and Participation grades.

60% 3 Short Papers

First Paper, 20%

Second Paper, 20%

Third Paper, 20%

Please note: Papers handed in late will be docked one full letter grade for each 24 hours, or fraction thereof, they are late. I will make exceptions for demonstrable.

Graduate students taking this class are expected to attend lectures and do all the assigned readings. They must write either two papers of 10 pages each, or one seminar paper of 20 or more pages.

30% Final exam, Monday, May 7, 3:30-5:30 PM

Plagiarism

All written work submitted by students must be of their own creation and design. Any time someone else's words are used to substantiate an argument, illustrate a point, or for any other reason, they must be set off in quotation marks and a reference given where that quote may be found. Any time someone else's ideas are paraphrased in new words, the original author and source must be cited in the same manner. Failure to do these and other basic rules of academic integrity as outlined in your student guide constitutes plagiarism.

If you are unsure whether a particular use of someone else's words or ideas is a violation of these rules, please ask me, or your TAs, about it *before submitting your work*.

If a student is caught plagiarizing I will refer the matter to the academic integrity panel at the dean's office who will recommend a sanction. Consistent with their rules, I reserve the right, and fully intend, to impose a more serious penalty than that panel suggests, including failing a student for the entire class if *any* plagiarized work is submitted as a student's own. Finally, should I discover after the fact that a paper submitted for course credit contained plagiarized material you will also fail the course. If the discovery is made after the course is over I will petition the dean's office to change your final grade to an "F".

Reading, paper and exam Schedule

- M Jan 18 Introduction
- W Jan 23 Some Preliminaries: On Politics, Political Theory, Sparta and Athens
*Plutarch, "Lycurgus" (c. 700-630 BCE)
*Thucydides, (c. 460-c.400 BCE) *History of the Peloponnesian War*
Book 1: Sections 1; 22-23; 66-88; 139-46
Book 2: Sections 18-23; 34-46

Plato (427-347 BCE): The Republic

- W Jan 25 *Republic*: Book 1 and 2 (through 368e)
- M-W Jan 30, Feb 1 *Republic*: Books 2, 368a through the end of Book 4
- M-W Feb 6-8 *Republic*: Books 5-7
- M-W Feb 13-15 *Republic*: Books 8-10

Friday, February 17, 12 Noon, First Paper Due

Aristotle (384-322 BCE): Ethics and Politics

- M-W Feb 20-22 *Nicomachean Ethics*, Selections from Books 1-3, and 8-10.
- M Feb 27 *Ethics*: Book 5
- W Feb 29 *Politics*: Books 1-2.5
- M-W Mar 5-7 *Politics*: Selections TBA

Friday, March 9, 12:00 Noon, Second Paper Due

March 12-14 SPRING BREAK

Cicero (106-43 BCE) Commonwealth and Laws

- M Mar 19 Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*: Book 1
- W Mar 21 Cicero, *On the Commonwealth* Books 2 and 3
- M Mar 26 Cicero, *On the Laws*: Book 1 and Book 2 through p. 145, and p. 156
- W Mar 28 NO CLASS
- M Apr 2 Cicero, *On the Laws*: Book 3; and *Commonwealth*, Books 4-6

Religion, Politics and Natural Law revisited

- W Apr 4 *Paul (c. 5- 67 CE): "Letter to the Romans" Verses 1-8, and 12-15. Verses 9-11 optional, *Augustine (354-430 CE), *City of God*. Selections.
- M Apr 9 Al Farabi (870-950 CE), "The Political Regime"
- W Apr 11 Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) *The Guide of the Perplexed*. Selections
- M Apr 16 Aquinas (1225-1274 CE). *On Politics and Ethics*, Selections
- W Apr 18 Aquinas, continued

Friday, April 20, 12:00 Noon, Third Paper Due

- M Apr 23 Machiavelli (1469-1527 CE), *The Prince*
- W Apr 25 Machiavelli, cont'd

Final Exam: Monday, May 7, 3:30-5:30 PM