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

Political Science 391  
Professor Frank Lovett

Spring 2008  
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Monday/Wednesday  
(314) 935-5829
1:00 – 2:30 pm  
Office Hours: Eliot 222
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Tuesdays, 10 am – noon

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

Course Requirements

Both undergraduate and graduate students may take this course, and the requirements are different for each. The undergraduate requirements are as follows:

1. **Readings.** The course schedule below indicates the readings required prior to each lecture; these readings average from 100 – 150 pages a week. The “further readings” indicated for each section of the course are optional, but will add depth to the required readings.

2. **Three (3) papers, 3–5 pages each.** Four (4) paper assignments are indicated on the class schedule below, and you must write at least three of them. If you choose to write all four, your lowest grade will be dropped. *Everyone must write the first paper.* The papers will together count for 60% of your overall grade. Paper topics will be provided in advance, along with detailed instructions regarding grading, turning in late papers, and so on.

3. **Final exam,** on May 7th. This exam will count for 40% of your overall grade. No makeup exams will be offered, barring demonstrable emergencies.

Graduate students enrolled in this course are expected to attend the lectures and do all of the scheduled readings. The “further readings” are also strongly recommended. Graduate students must write either two shorter papers of at least 10 pages each, or one seminar paper of 20 or more pages in length.
Course Materials

For this course you will need all the following books, which should be available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore:

Aristotle, *Politics* (Hackett)  
Augustine, *City of God* (Penguin)  
Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (Penguin)  
Inwood and Gerson (eds), *Hellenistic Philosophy*, 2nd edition (Hackett)  
Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (Penguin)  
Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago)  
Plato, *Republic* (Cambridge)  
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Penguin)

There are many good editions of these books, and if you happen to own some already, do not feel obligated to buy these particular editions. Some additional readings are available online at ERes (the course password is ‘IPTS08’).

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Jan 14   Introduction (no assignment)

I. THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR


Jan 21   MLK Holiday (no class)


II. THE IDEAL REPUBLIC OF PLATO


Feb 4    Plato, *Republic*, bks. III–IV.

Feb 8    **First paper due** (at 12:00 noon)


Feb 13   Plato, *Republic*, bks. IX–X.

    **Further reading**: Plato, “Laches,” “Gorgias,” and “Meno.”

III. ARISTOTLE AND THE DEMOCRATIC POLIS

Feb 18   Aristotle, *Politics*, bk. I: 1–2; bk. II: 1–5; bk. VII.1, 13; *Nicomachean Ethics*, selections (online).


IV. LATER CLASSICAL THOUGHT


Feb 29   **Second paper due** (at 12:00 noon)


Mar 5    Livy, *The Rise of Rome*, selections (online)
         Polybius, *Rise of the Roman Empire*, selections (online)

Mar 10–12 Spring Break (no class)

Mar 17   Sallust, “Conspiracy of Catline” (online); Cicero, “On the Commonwealth,” bk. I: 1–33


V. EARLY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT


Mar 28  **Third paper due (at 12:00 noon)**


VI. THE MIDDLE AGES


VII. RENAISSANCE POLITICAL THOUGHT


Apr 18  **Fourth paper due (at 12:00 noon)**


**VIII. CONCLUSION**

May 7  **Final Exam** (1:00 – 3:00 pm)

**Secondary Readings**

The following are a small selection of the many excellent works by contemporary historians, philosophers, and political theorists discussing the authors and themes we study this class. They are an excellent place to begin if you wish the study any of these topics in greater depth.

Kagan, *The Peloponnesian War*
White, *A Companion to Plato’s Republic*
Hansen, *Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes*
Ober, *Mass and Elite in Democratic Athens*
Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness*
Lear, *Aristotle: the Desire to Understand*
Long, *Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoics, Epicureans, Skeptics*
Brunt, *Fall of the Roman Republic and Related Essays*
Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*
Irwin, *Classical Thought*
Kretzmann and Stump, *Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*
Morrall, *Political Thought in Medieval Times*
Pocock, *The Machiavellian Moment*