

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

Political Science 391/5090

Professor Frank Lovett
TA: Dominique Lockett

Spring 2019
Monday/Wednesday
10:00 – 11:30 am
Seigle 109

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Office Hours: Mondays and
Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Seigle 282

This course is designed to be the first in a three-semester sequence on the history of political thought. The sequence offers a critical introduction to the main issues and debates in predominantly 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. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take the courses in chronological sequence. The first semester begins with ancient Greek political thought, and follows the development of political ideas up through 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, 3–4 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 75% 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 6th. This exam will count for 25% 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:

Aquinas, *On Politics and Ethics* (Norton)
Aristotle, *Politics* (Hackett)
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Oxford)
Augustine, *City of God* (Penguin)
Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (Penguin)
Cicero, *On the Commonwealth and On the Laws* (Cambridge)
Dante, *Monarchy* (Cambridge)
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 Ares (the course password is 'HPTS19').

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Jan 14 Introduction (no assignment)

I. THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

Jan 16 Thucydides, *History*, bk. I: 1, 20–23, 31–45, 56–96, 139–146;
bk. II: 8–14, 18–23.
Plutarch, “Life of Lycurgus” (online)

Jan 21 No class (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Jan 23 Thucydides, *History*, bk. II: 34–65; bk. III: 1–19, 25–85; bk. V: 1–26,
84–116.

Jan 28 Thucydides, *History*, bk. VI: 1, 8–32, 42–52, 60–61, 72–93; bk. VII: 1–18,
42–55, 59–87.

Further reading: Homer, *Iliad*, bk. I; Xenophon, *Hellenica*, bks. I–II; Plato,
“The Apology.”

II. PLATO’S IDEAL REPUBLIC

Jan 30 Plato, *Republic*, bks. I–II.

- Feb 4 Plato, *Republic*, bks. III–IV.
- Feb 6 Plato, *Republic*, bks. V–VI.
- Feb 8 **First paper due** (at 12:00 noon)
- Feb 11 Plato, *Republic*, bks. VII–VIII.
- 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; *Nicomachean Ethics*, bk. I: 1–11; bk. II: 1–7; bk. VIII: 1–3, 9; bk. X: 9.
- Feb 20 Aristotle, *Politics*, bk. I: 3–7, 12–13; bk. II: 1–5; bk. III: 1–5, 10–13; bk. VII: 2–4, 13–15.
- Feb 25 Aristotle, *Politics*, bk. III: 6–7, 15–16; bk. IV: 1–14; bk. V: 1–4, 8–9, 11.

Further reading: Plato, “Statesman;” Aristotle, *Physics*, bk. II, and *Nicomachean Ethics*, bk. V.

IV. LATER CLASSICAL THOUGHT

- Feb 27 *Hellenistic Philosophy*, selections on Skepticism, pp. 285–297, 302–308; selections on Epicureanism, pp. 5–19, 32–36; selections on Stoicism, pp. 111–112, 132–139.
- Mar 1 **Second paper due** (at 12:00 noon)
- Mar 4 *Hellenistic Philosophy*, selections on Epicureanism, pp. 28–31; selections on Stoicism, pp. 184–188, 190–203.
Epictetus, “The Handbook” (online).
Seneca, “On The Private Life” (online).
- Mar 6 Cicero, “On the Commonwealth,” bk. II: 1–24, 45–63.
Polybius, *Rise of the Roman Empire*, selections (online).
- Mar 11–13 Spring Break (no class)
- Mar 18 Sallust, “Conspiracy of Catiline” (online).
Cicero, “On the Commonwealth,” bk. I: 1–15; bk. VI: 9–29.

Mar 20 Cicero, "On the Commonwealth," bk. I: 30–71; bk. II: 64–70; bk. III: 8–48; "On the Laws," bk. I: 1–52.

Further reading: *Hellenistic Philosophy*, pp. 36–40, 113–124; Livy, *History of Rome*, bks. I–II; Cicero, *On Ends*, bks. I–IV; Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*.

V. EARLY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Mar 25 St. Paul, "Letter to the Romans" (online).
St. Augustine, *City of God*, bk. I: preface, 1–15, 29–36; bk. II: 20–22; bk. III: 1, 9–14, 30–31; bk. IV: 1–7, 33–34.

Mar 27 St. Augustine, *City of God*, bk. V: preface, 1, 8–19, 24; bk. VIII: 1–13; bk. XI: 1–8; bk. XII: 1–9, 28.

Mar 29 **Third paper due** (at 12:00 noon)

Apr 1 St. Augustine, *City of God*, bk. XIV: 1–6, 11–18, 21–28; bk. XV: 1–2, 4–5; bk. XIX: 1–7, 11–21, 24–28; bk. XXII: 30.

Further reading: the Gospel of Luke; Augustine, *The Political Writings*, chs. 4–5, and *On Free Choice of the Will*; Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*.

VI. THE MIDDLE AGES

Apr 3 Aquinas, *On Politics and Ethics*, p. 3–13, 30–37, 61–64.
Averroes, "The Decisive Treatise ..." (online).

Apr 8 Aquinas, *On Politics and Ethics*, p. 37–60, 64–83.

Apr 10 Aquinas, *On Politics and Ethics*, p. 14–29.
Dante, *Monarchy*, bk. I: 1–16; bk. III: 1–4

Apr 15 Dante, *Monarchy*, bk. III: 5–16.
Marsilius, *Defender of the Peace*, selections (online).

Further reading: al Gazali, "Deliverance from Error;" Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, bk. II: 32, 36–40; John of Salisbury, *Policraticus*, bks. IV–VI; Bartolus of Saxoferrato, "On the Government of a City."

VII. RENAISSANCE POLITICAL THOUGHT

Apr 17 Machiavelli, "Letter to Vettori" (see appendix to *The Prince*).
Castiglione, *Book of the Courtier*, pp. 39–68, 87–101, 281–289, 296–300, 306–315.

- Apr 19 **Fourth paper due** (at 12:00 noon)
- Apr 22 Machiavelli, *The Prince*, dedication, chs. 1–9, 12–19, 21–26.
- Apr 24 Machiavelli, *Discourses*, bk. I: preface, chs. 1–6, 9, 16–18, 27, 34, 55, 58;
 bk. II: chs. 1–2; bk. III: ch. 9, 41, 49.

Further reading: Petrarch, “How a Ruler Ought to Govern His State;” Bruni, “Panegyric to the City of Florence;” Guicciardini, *Maxims and Reflections*.

- May 6 **Final Exam** (10:30 am – 12:30 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*
 Yack, *Problems of a Political Animal*
 Long, *Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoics, Epicureans, Skeptics*
 Brunt, *Fall of the Roman Republic and Related Essays*
 Wood, *Cicero’s Social and Political Thought*
 Brown, *Augustine of Hippo: A Biography*
 Irwin, *Classical Thought*
 Kretzmann and Stump, *Cambridge Companion to Aquinas*
 Morrall, *Political Thought in Medieval Times*
 Canning, *A History of Medieval Political Thought*
 Waley and Dean, *The Italian City-Republics*
 Skinner, *Machiavelli: A Very Short Introduction*
 Viroli, *Machiavelli*