

Political Science 670
History of Political Thought
from Ancient Greece to
the Protestant Reformation

Autumn 2005

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Mon., Wed., 11:30-1:18
Office hrs: Mon, Tues 3-4pm
2127 Derby Hall

This course surveys the history of political thought in the ancient and medieval periods. The first half of the course will focus on Plato and Aristotle; the second half will focus on the Roman, early Christian, and medieval worlds. Some familiarity with either moral and political philosophy or ancient and medieval intellectual history will be helpful, but this is not assumed.

Course Requirements

There are three main course requirements:

1. Quizzes. There will be a series of unannounced quizzes over the course of the quarter, designed to ensure class preparation and check reading comprehension. These quizzes will be given at the start of class at least seven times throughout the quarter. Each student's top five quiz scores will be counted, and each quiz will be worth five percent of the final grade (for a total of 25%).
2. Midterm paper. A 6-8 page paper on an assigned topic due on November 2 in class. Topics will be distributed on October 26. The midterm paper counts for 25% of the final grade.
3. Final paper. A 12-15 page paper on an assigned topic due on December 2 by 4:00pm in the instructor's mailbox. Topics will be distributed not later than November 21. The final paper counts for 50% of the final grade.

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at the Ohio State Book Store, SBX, and Long's:

Plato. *The Republic*. Edited by G.R.F. Ferrari. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000

Aristotle. *The Politics*. Edited Stephen Everson. Revised Student Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996

There is also a required coursepack available for purchase at SBX.

Course Policies

Attendance – Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and to have prepared adequately with respect to the assigned readings. Periodic quizzes over the reading will help to motivate both regular attendance and adequate preparation. There is no other sanction for missing a lecture, and it is not necessary to obtain prior approval from the instructor when missing a class meeting is unavoidable. Students bear the entire responsibility for the decision to miss class and for whatever effect that may have on their quiz scores or their comprehension of the course material.

Academic Honesty – The work students submit as their midterm and final papers must be entirely their own. In addition citing the assigned readings as evidence, students who draw on secondary sources or the interpretations of others must acknowledge their sources and debts, and students who quote from other sources **must** make this clear by their use of quotation marks and citations. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will in every instance be referred to the appropriate university disciplinary authorities.

Midterm and final papers – Midterm and final papers are to be critical essays on assigned topics. Students who wish to propose an alternative topic may do so not later than the class period following the distribution of assigned topics. The instructor's policy is not to review drafts of papers before submission, but the instructor is willing to discuss topics, arguments, etc., during office hours or appointments, and to review one-page summaries of thesis statements, paper outlines, etc., when these are submitted to him well in advance (not less than three full days prior to the due date). Portions of the midterm paper, suitably revised, may be incorporated into the final paper where appropriate, though in no case should the new material in the final paper be less than the minimum length of the paper (12 new pages).

Late penalties – Papers must be turned in at the assigned time and place. **Papers may be submitted by email only in special circumstances and with the prior express permission of the instructor.** A penalty up to 1/3 of a letter grade will be assessed for each day the paper is late.

Office hours – The instructor is available for conferences with students either during office hours or, when meeting during office hours is not possible, by appointment. Students who would like to discuss issues raised in lecture further than class discussions will permit, or students who encounter difficulties with the course or the assigned material, are especially encouraged to attend office hours.

Disabilities -- Students with disabilities should make their needs known to the instructor and seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880, also in the first week of the quarter.

Exceptions to course policies – These policies will be the general rules for the course. In extraordinary circumstances the instructor may find it appropriate to modify these policies in particular cases. Students who wish to ask for any modification must apply to the instructor as far in advance as possible. They must also verify the modification **in writing**, either by email or memorandum. **No course policy can be modified without written confirmation from the instructor.** It is the student's responsibility to generate a written record of the modification.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Wednesday, September 21

Introduction

I. The Ancient World

A. Thucydides

Monday, September 26

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War* (selections in coursepack). ALSO please read Plato, "Apology" (in coursepack)

B. Socrates

Wednesday, September 28

Plato, "Crito" (in coursepack); *Republic* Book I

C. Plato

Monday, October 3

Plato, *Republic*, Books II-III

Wednesday, October 5

Plato, *Republic*, Books IV-V

Monday, October 10

Plato, *Republic*, Books VI-VII

Wednesday, October 12

Plato, *Republic*, Books VIII-X; "Timaeus," (selections in coursepack)

D. Aristotle

Monday, October 17

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I, II, and V, selections (in coursepack)

Wednesday, October 19

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books VI and X, selections (in coursepack); *Politics* Book I

Monday, October 24

Aristotle, *Politics*, Bks. II-III

Wednesday, October 26

Aristotle, *Politics*, Bks. IV-V

MIDTERM PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED TODAY; DUE BACK WED, NOV. 2 IN CLASS

Monday, October 31

Aristotle, *Politics*, Books VI-VIII

E. Later Hellenistic Philosophy

Wednesday, November 2

Epicurus, "Letters," (selections in coursepack); Diogenes Laertius, "Life of Zeno," (selections in coursepack); Pyrrho and Sextus Empiricus, "Outlines of Pyrrhonism" (selections in coursepack)

MIDTERM PAPERS DUE, 11:30am, IN CLASS

E. Rome

Monday, November 7

Livy, "The Early History of Rome," (selections in coursepack); Sallust, "The Conspiracy of Catiline" (selections in coursepack); Tacitus, "The Annals of Imperial Rome" (selections in coursepack)

Wednesday, November 9

Cicero, *On Duties*; Seneca, "On the Private Life," in coursepack

II. The Christian World

A. Hebrew and Early Christian Political Thought through Augustine

Monday, November 14

Old and New Testaments (selections in coursepack); Tertullian, "The Military Chaplet," (selections in coursepack); Lactantius, "Divine Institutes," (selections in coursepack)

Wednesday, November 16

St. Augustine, *City of God* (selections in coursepack)

B. Medieval Political Thought

Monday, November 21

St. Thomas Aquinas (selections in coursepack)

FINAL PAPER TOPICS DISTRUBUTED TODAY; DUE BACK FRIDAY, DEC. 3, 4:00pm

Wednesday, November 23

Gelasius (selections in coursepack); "The Donation of Constantine," (in coursepack); Giles of Rome (selections in coursepack); John of Paris (selections in coursepack)

Monday, November 28

Dante, *Monarchy* (selections in coursepack); Marsilius of Padua, *Defender of the Peace*, (selections in coursepack).

C. The Renaissance

Wednesday, November 30

Leonardo Bruni, "Laudatio of the City of Florence," "Oration for the Funeral of Nanno Strazzi," and "On the Florentine Constitution" (in coursepack); Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy* II.2 (in coursepack)

Friday, December 2

FINAL PAPERS DUE TODAY BY 4:00pm