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

Political Science 391/5090

Professor Frank Lovett
TA: Dominique Lockett

Spring 2019

Spring 2019
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Monday/Wednesday

Office Hours: Mondays and

10:00 – 11:30 am

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Office Hours: Mondays and

Seigle 109

Office Hours: Mondays and

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:

Aristotle, *Politics* (Hackett)
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Oxford)
Augustine, *City of God* (Penguin)
Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (Penguin)
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

          Plutarch, “Life of Lycurgus” (online)

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


II. PLATO’S IDEAL REPUBLIC

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;
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,
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).
        Polybius, Rise of the Roman Empire, selections (online).
Mar 11–13  Spring Break (no class)
Mar 18  Sallust, “Conspiracy of Catiline” (online).


V. EARLY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT


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


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


VII. RENAISSANCE POLITICAL THOUGHT

April 19  **Fourth paper due** (at 12:00 noon)


April 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.


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*
Morral, *Political Thought in Medieval Times*
Canning, *A History of Medieval Political Thought*
Waley and Dean, *The Italian City-Republics*
Viroli, *Machiavelli*