

PSCI 2300 A
History of Political Thought
Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 9:35-12:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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This course offers students an introduction to the most important thinkers and questions in Western political thought. The Early Summer part provides an introduction to classic texts of Ancient Greek political philosophy. The themes we will study in the Early Summer include: justice, nature and convention, education, citizenship, gender, the family, economics, the best regime, the goals of political life, and the relation between political life and the contemplative life.

The Professor for the Late Summer portion of the course will be Dr. Peter Emberley.

Objectives and Goals of the Early Summer part of the Course:

-This course is designed to give students an understanding of the role of key thinkers in the development of political philosophy.

-Another key objective is to understand the teachings of these philosophers on their own terms and to compare and contrast the thinkers' approaches to major issues.

-This course provides a starting point for reflection about the impact of political philosophy on the opportunities and challenges of contemporary political life. It also aims to give the student the ability to describe in his or her own words how the ideas of the philosophers can foster reflection about present day political and ethical dilemmas.

-The course is designed to help the student understand and practice the art of interpretation.

-Another key goal is to teach students the importance of careful reading.

- A further objective is to help students become clearer writers.

-The course also provides an opportunity for students to refine their skills of argumentation and to practice critical thinking.

We will proceed by close textual and contextual study of classical philosophical texts. Our

approach will be **theoretical**.

Prerequisite: second year standing

N.B. Class attendance is necessary for success in this course. Please read the assigned texts before class and bring the texts with you to class.

Class Etiquette: Class participation is very much encouraged. To facilitate this, each person who speaks in class should be given the floor; talking or whispering to other students while someone else is speaking is destructive of the quality of class deliberation.

Books Required for Purchase (Available at the University textbook store):

Note: Please be sure to buy the recommended translations. This is particularly important for the mid-term.

Plato and Aristophanes, Four Texts on Socrates. Trans. Thomas West and Grace Starry West. Cornell, 1998.

Plato, The Republic of Plato. Trans. Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1991.

Aristotle. The Politics of Aristotle. Trans. Peter L. Phillips Simpson. University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

Early Summer Course Requirements:

Mid-term test on Mon. June 4	40%
Final exam (during the early summer exam period)	60%

Late Summer Course Requirements:

Mid-term Test- 25% of grade
Essay of 15 – 20 pages- 25 % of grade, due last day of class
Final Exam (Scheduled by the Registrar)- 50%

Early Summer Mid-term test: the Early Summer mid-term will consist of two parts. The first part is comprised of 20 true or false questions based on statements that are contained in the texts. The second part will feature a choice between two essay questions. For the mid-term, you will be responsible for material in The Apology of Socrates, The Republic, Books 1-7. The mid-term will take place at **11 a.m. sharp on Mon. June 4**.

In very exceptional circumstances, a make-up Early Summer mid-term may be

administered by the Teaching Assistant but only if students have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen.

Note: This portion of the course does not lend itself to early feedback.

Early Summer Final Exam: The final exam is designed to test your knowledge and understanding of all the course readings for the entire term. There will be two sections; each will contain a choice between two essay questions. It will be a 3 hour exam and will be scheduled during the formal examination period.

Please also note the following:

-The Undergraduate Calendar states “**To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations.**” (Academic Regulation [AR] 2.1) The grade of ‘F’ will be assigned where term work is incomplete.

Tentative Early Summer Schedule of Reading:

Mon. May 7	Introduction, Plato, <u>The Apology of Socrates</u> (Contained in the book, <u>Four Texts on Socrates</u> , trans. Thomas West and Grace Starry West, (Cornell, 1998)).
Wed. May 9	Plato, <u>The Apology of Socrates</u> , continued
Mon. May 14	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 1
Wed. May 16	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 2
Mon. May 21	University holiday, no university classes.
Wed. May 23	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 3 and Book 4
Mon. May 28	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 5
Wed. May 30	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 6
Mon. June 4	<u>The Republic</u> , Book 7; 11 a.m. <i>Mid-term test</i>
Wed. June 6	Readings: Aristotle, <u>Nicomachean Ethics</u> , Book 1; W.D. Ross translation available on-line at

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html>

-Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 10, chapter 9, (contained in Simpson edition of Aristotle, The Politics, pp. 1-7)

Mon. June 11 Aristotle, The Politics, Book 1

Wed. June 13 Aristotle, The Politics, Book 3,
Chapters 1-9

Mon. June 18 Aristotle, The Politics, Book 3,
Chapters 10-18
Early Summer Conclusion

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **(November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations)**.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: The following is the Carleton University grading system.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to

instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.