

Carleton University
Department of Political Science

Fall 2015

PSCI 2301A
History of Political Thought
Monday and Wednesday 11:35-12:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

FALL

Instructor: Dr. Tom Darby
Office: C675 Loeb Building
Telephone: 520-2600 ext . 2778
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 – 2:00
Email: tom_darby@carleton.ca

Purpose of the course:

This course is an introduction to the Classical Pagan and Classical Christian political philosophers. The theme that connects these thinkers is the fundamental concern of philosophy itself – the status of the relation of action to thought. The focus of this course will be ‘globalization’, ancient and modern. You will note that, with only one exception, all of the required sources for this course are the original writings of the authors who actually wrote them. The primary purpose of this course is to teach students how to interpret rich and complex ideas found in philosophical and political texts and to speak and write about them clearly. **THE USE OF SECONDARY SOURCES IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN unless assigned.** Students **MUST** use designated translations as listed in this outline.

Sources in Order:

1. Plato - “The Apology of Socrates”, “The Crito” (recommended: Plato’s “Euthyphro”, and “Phaedo” and Aristophanes’ “Clouds”) in Thomas G. West and Grace Starry West, *Four Texts on Socrates*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1998

Plato Bks I, II, V, VI, VII – Alan Bloom, *The Republic of Plato: 2nd Edition*, Basic Books, 1991

2. Aristotle – Carnes Lord, *The Politics*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1985 selected chapters TBA (recommended :short selected sections from The Ethics, The Physics and The Metaphysics, TBA)
3. Course pack consisting of selections from the writings of St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas (recommended: the following books from the Jewish and Christian Bibles: “Genesis”, “Exodus”, “Job”, “Isaiah”, “Jeremiah”, “Daniel” “Matthew”, “Mark,” “Luke”, “John”, “Revelation” .You are urged to use *The New English Bible* (N.E.B.), and if not that, then *The Revised Standard Version* (R.S.V.), in that they are the most scholarly texts. However, since no other literary work has influenced the English language more than the *King James Bible*, using it is justifiable.)

Approximate dates of lectures and themes:

Sept. 2 – Orientation

Sept. 4-9–Introduction: Spiritual Crisis and the Athenian ‘Globalization’ of the Mediterranean World.

Sept. 14 – “Apology” – The theme of Justice, Politics, Truth and Spiritual Crisis

Sept. 16 – “Crito”, “Phaedo” – The theme of obligation and ethics beyond necessity

Sept. 21- Oct. 21 - “Republic” – return to the theme of Justice, Politics and Authority

* (October 26- 30 no classes- Fall Break)

Nov. 2 – 9 The Politics” – Man and the City

Nov. 11 - Swing Lecture – Empire: Alexander and Rome

Nov. 16 – The Jewish Bible – origin/content and spiritual purpose

Nov. 18- The Christian Bible – Spirit and History

Nov. 23 -25 Spiritual Crisis, the Fall of Rome and the philosophy of St. Augustine

No. 30 - The Medieval World Picture: St. Thomas and the ‘Great Chain of Being’

Dec 2 – St. Thomas Aquinas

Dec. 7- Review

Texts Required

You should use **ONLY** the exact texts and translations ordered for the course as I will be making continuous reference to page numbers and passages from these editions. You will also be expected to cite from these editions in your essays. A bad translation will result in a bad essay.

Course Requirements:

30% Tutorial Participation

30% Term Essay (Due: Monday, December 7th)

(Note: essay not a research paper, i.e., exclusive use of required course sources, thus, no-secondary sources allowed unless assigned.)

40% Final Exam (To be scheduled during formal exam period)

NOTE: *Attendance is required at all lectures and tutorials.* Valid excuses accepted, otherwise, absenteeism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade.

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

| 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 |

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.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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 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, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/>

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.