

Carleton University
Department of Political Science

Fall 2012

PSCI 2300A
History of Political Thought
Tuesday 16:35-17:25 / Thursday 16:35-17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

FALL

Instructor: Dr. Tom Darby
Office: C675 Loeb Building
Telephone: 520-2600 ext . 2778
Office Hours: Monday 12:00 -2:00
Wednesday 13:00-14:00
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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. Except for the ‘template essay’ by Harvey Mansfield, “How to Understand Politics”, **THE USE OF SECONDARY SOURCES IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN unless assigned.**

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, and if not that, then the Revised Standard Version, in that they are the most scholarly texts. However, since no other literary work has influenced the English language more than the King James Version, using it is justifiable.)
4. Harvey Mansfield, photocopied essay “Understanding Politics”

Approximate dates of lectures and themes:

Sept. 6 – Orientation

Sept. 11, 13 – Introduction: Spiritual Crisis and the Athenian ‘Globalization’ of the Mediterranean World.

Sept. 18 -27– “Apology” – The theme of Justice, Politics, Truth and Spiritual Crisis

Oct. 2-4 – “Crito”, Phaedo” – The theme of obligation and ethics beyond necessity

Oct. 9-23– “Republic” – return to the theme of Justice, Politics and Authority

Oct. 25 – Nov. 6 – The Politics – Man and the City

Nov. 8 - Swing Lecture – Empire: Alexander and Rome

Nov. 13, 15 – The Jewish Bible – origin/content and spiritual purpose

Nov. 20, 22 - The Christian Bible – Spirit and History

Nov. 27 -Spiritual Crisis, the Fall of Rome and the philosophy of St. Augustine

Nov 29 - The Medieval World Picture: St. Thomas and the ‘Great Chain of Being’

Dec 4th - Review

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.

Course Requirements:

15% Tutorial Participation

15% First Term Essay (app. 14pp. due on first day of class, second term)

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

20% Midterm 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

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 9th, 2012 for December examinations and March 8th, 2013 for April 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: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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.