



The debate of Socrates and Aspasia, Nicolas-André Monsiau, c. 1800.

PSCI 2301 A
History of Political Thought I
Mondays, 9:35–10:25
This course will be held remotely online

Instructor: Amanda Roberts

Online Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 am to 12 pm via BigBlueButton on Brightspace

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Course Description

This course examines some of the foundational texts in the history of Western political thought. It is an introduction to the ideas, debates, and thinkers that have influenced key concepts in the field of political theory. Although the texts we will be reading this term originate in ancient Greece, they address questions and debates that are inescapable both throughout the history of political thought and in modern politics. These questions include: what is justice, and to whom do we owe it? What is politics? What is philosophy? Who and what is a philosopher? What is the ideal regime? What is democracy? Who and what is a citizen? What does it mean to live in a political community? What is the role of education in politics? What is the role of the family in a political community? Where do women and other minorities fit into a political community?

By examining how Thucydides, Sophocles, Herodotus, Plato, and Aristotle treat these themes and more, students will gain an understanding of the foundations for key concepts in political science more broadly, such as democracy, citizenship, justice, participation, and belonging.

Course Format

This is a **blended** course, which means that it will be delivered online using a **mix of asynchronous (unscheduled) sessions, and synchronous (scheduled) sessions.**

Lectures: Lectures will be held **asynchronously**: each week, I will post a lesson module on Brightspace with interactive, pre-recorded lectures to complete at your own pace throughout the week. The lectures will be posted by Monday afternoon of the previous week; you should aim to watch and complete the lecture/lesson module before your tutorial the following Monday.

Tutorials: Tutorials will be held **synchronously** at your tutorial's scheduled time (verify time on Carleton Central) via BigBlueButton. Tutorials will begin the second week of classes. If you know in advance that you cannot attend synchronous tutorials, please reach out to me and we can discuss an alternate way for you to participate.

Brightspace & Carleton Email: Because this course will be delivered online, you are responsible for checking your Carleton Email account and Brightspace regularly (~2—3 times per week) for updates.

Office Hours: I will hold office hours online via BigBlueButton (link on Brightspace) every **Wednesday from 10am to 12pm**. Office hours are a time for students to meet with me to discuss any questions, or to get extra help or clarification. If my set office hours do not work for you, please do not hesitate to make an appointment and we will meet at a time that better suits your schedule.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Read dense texts carefully and critically.
- Develop and defend their own interpretation of a primary source text without the use of secondary sources.
- Compare and contrast the philosophies and key concepts as used by each thinker the course covers (such as justice, democracy, education, family, ideal regimes, etc).
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of key arguments and debates in the history of political thought.

Required Texts (available for purchase at Carleton Bookstore)

Although these texts are available from many publishers and translators, I have selected these translations for maximum clarity and accessibility. Although any translation is acceptable, **I strongly recommend using these translations**. They are available at the Carleton Bookstore, who can ship them to you. Alternately, similar editions will be available on the MacOdrum Library's e-reserves system, ARES, on Brightspace.

Plato, *The Republic* (Basic Books, 1991, 2nd, or 3rd edition, trans. Allan Bloom)
ISBN 0465069347 **OR** ISBN 0465094082

Aristotle, *The Politics* (Penguin Books, 1981, trans. T.A. Sinclair, revised by Trevor J. Saunders)
ISBN 9780140444216

**** All other readings will be available on Brightspace.**

Course Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Short Passage Interpretation	October 4, 2021	15%
Final Essay Thesis Draft (bonus)	November 29, 2021	2% (optional - bonus marks)
Final Essay	December 10, 2021	30%
Take-Home Exam	Formally scheduled during exam period	25%
Lesson Completion	Weekly, marked for completion	15%
Tutorial Participation	Weekly, starting week 2	15%

Short Passage Interpretation (15%) – due October 4, 2021

You will be asked to interpret a passage excerpt from one of our readings. Using 750 words (min. 700 words, max. 800 words), your response should **argue for a particular interpretation**, covering *what* the passage says, *how* it is being said, and *why* it is significant. This is *not* a research essay, but a chance for us to hear what you think – please do not use sources outside of what is covered in the course. Passage options will be posted on Brightspace with more assignment instructions closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via Brightspace, and your grades and comments will be posted there as well.

Final Essay Thesis Draft (2%, bonus marks) – due November 29, 2021

For this **optional** bonus assignment, you will be asked to submit a draft of the thesis statement you plan to use for your final essay before the essay itself is due. A thesis argues for a particular position. This is an opportunity to receive feedback on your thesis that you can then incorporate into your final paper. This assignment will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis (ex. submitting a thesis on time will earn the full 2% bonus marks, but you will not be penalized for not submitting this assignment).

Final Essay (30%) – due December 10, 2021

You will be asked to write an essay on one of a series of essay topics/questions. Using 2000 words (min. 1900 words, max. 2100 words), your essay **must contain a thesis that argues for a particular position**. (If you submitted a thesis for the thesis draft assignment, you may of course use that thesis or a modified version of it.) This is *not* a research essay, but an interpretative one – please do not use sources outside of what is covered in the course. Topic choices and additional instructions will be posted on Brightspace closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via Brightspace, and your grades and comments will be posted there as well.

Take-Home Exam (25%) – TBD, formally scheduled

In a formally-scheduled take-home examination, you will be asked to answer a series of short answer questions – some of which will be comparative in nature – on the texts and themes

covered in the course. More information, including due date and other instructions, will be posted on Brightspace.

Lesson Completion (15%)

Each week, I will post a lesson module consisting of a series of interactive video lectures with true or false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank questions embedded in them. In some cases, you may be required to complete one of these activities in order to access the rest of the lesson content. If you answer a question incorrectly, you will have the opportunity to try that question again. These interactive lessons are meant to encourage active learning, as well as give me a sense of student strengths and weaknesses, and which concepts I may need to clarify. Each lesson will be graded based on completion (complete/incomplete) on a weekly basis, and together count for 15% of your final grade.

Tutorial Participation (15%)

Tutorial participation is an important element of this course as it gives you an opportunity to engage with the readings and lecture material critically, and learn from one another and your TAs. Tutorials will be held via BigBlueButton (link on Brightspace). Students are expected to attend tutorials having completed the mandatory readings, prepare questions or comments, and contribute actively and respectfully to the discussion with their classmates. Attendance will be taken regularly. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend any synchronous tutorials, please reach out to me and we can discuss an alternate way for you to participate.

Course Policies

Privacy: Students should not have the expectation of privacy when using Brightspace. As an instructor, I can see all of your activity on Brightspace – how often you sign in, which pages and documents you open, how long you spend on any page/activity/document, etc.

Carleton Email Accounts: When communicating with your instructor and TAs, you **must** use your Carleton Email account. Please put the course code (PSCI 2301A) in the subject line of the email. You can expect a reply from me within 48 hours (excluding weekends).

Questions: Please reserve email for personal questions (questions regarding your specific situation). If you have a question about course content or logistics/administration, chances are your classmates may have the same question and may find my answer useful. Please use the “Ask Your Instructor” discussion forum on Brightspace for these kinds of general questions.

Late Papers & Extensions: Please contact me **as soon as possible** if you are experiencing a (physical or mental) health-related problem and require accommodations for coursework. Extensions will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Late papers will be penalized by **4% per day including weekends** unless you have contacted me in advance with a legitimate reason for being late. Without an extension, late assignments will not be accepted more than **seven days** after the original deadline.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – September 13	Introduction Required reading: Course Outline
Week 2 – September 20	Thucydides' <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> Required reading: Thucydides' <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> (Excerpts – available on Brightspace) 2.34–46; 5.84–116
Week 3 – September 27	Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> Required reading: <i>Antigone</i> (available on Brightspace)
Week 4 – October 4	Plato's <i>Symposium</i> & Introduction to <i>Republic</i> Required reading: Plato's <i>Symposium</i> (Excerpts – available on Brightspace), Plato's <i>Republic</i> Book I (327a–328b) * Short Passage Interpretation due
October 11	Statutory holiday – university closed
Week 5 – October 18	Plato's <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book I
October 25–29	Fall Reading Week – classes suspended
Week 6 – November 1	Plato's <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book II
Week 7 – November 8	Plato's <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book III & IV
Week 8 – November 15	Plato's <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book V
Week 9 – November 22	Plato's <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book VII (514a–520a) & VIII
Week 10 – November 29	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i> Required reading: Book I (Chapter i–ii, xii, xiii); Book II (Chapter ii, iv, ix); Book III (Chapter i–ii) * Final Essay Thesis (Bonus assignment) due
Week 11 – December 6	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i> Required reading: Book III (Chapter vi–ix); Book IV (Chapter i–ii); Book VI (Chapter i–v), Book VII (Chapter i–iii, xiii)
Week 12 – December 10 (Follows a Monday schedule)	Conclusions & Review *Final Essay due

Appendix

Covid-19 Information

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf.

Religious accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit carleton.ca/pmc.

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

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 includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions,

chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Intellectual property

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

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

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 Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.