

PSCI 2301 (B)

History of Political Thought I

Tuesdays, 11:35 A.M – 13:25 P.M

Confirm Location on Carleton Central

I General information

Instructor: Ali Elyasi

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Email: [ali.elyasi@carleton.ca](mailto:ali.elyasi@carleton.ca)

II Course description

In this course we will look at basic foundational texts of political theory. The course will cover the writings of Ancient Greek philosophers, comics, tragedians and historians. We will look at what these authors can teach us about demagoguery and how they understood the problem we call today ‘polarization’. It is undeniable that we live in one of the most polarized political conditions in recent memory. Citizens who feel alienated from their political community flock to demagogues who exploit them for personal gain, so in this course we will look at how the Greeks saw, examined and dealt with such conditions. We will read the works of Thucydides, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Plato and Aristotle.

The aim of the course is to give a cursory look at some important Ancient Greek political texts. The lectures are designed to prepare students for both future political theory courses by giving them a basic knowledge of Ancient Greek political thought and allow them to look at the contemporary problems from a new perspective.

The objective of the course is to help students look at the contemporary polarized conditions from a different lens and to protect themselves against the dark art of nefarious political actors. The course also familiarizes students with the basics of political theory.

III Course Format

This is an in-person lecture and student are expected to attend every class and every tutorial.

IV Learning outcomes

By the end of the course students should have

- A) A better grasp of ancient political thought

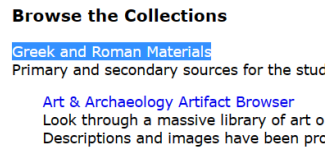
- B) A preliminary understanding of foundations of political thought
- C) An appreciation for different ways of understanding group thinking
- D) A new perspective on how and why political divisions transpire
- E) An insight into Ancient Greek understanding of politics

## V Required Texts

- Required texts for this course can be accessed for free on Tuft’s University Perseus Digital Library.
- Simply go to [www.perseus.tufts.edu](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu) with a quick google search.
- On the website click on the “Collections/Texts” button at the top of the page



- Click the “Greek and Roman Materials” button



- An alphabetically ordered list of authors should appear. Scroll down to the appropriate Author, find the proper text from the drop-down Menu and click it. For example: if you are looking for Aristotle’s *Politics*, scroll down until you find Aristotle’s name, click the drop-down menu then click *Politics*. There are two versions of each text, one in Ancient Greek and the other in English.



- The following texts can be accessed in the Perseus Digital Library:
  - Thucydides’ *History of the Peloponnesian War*
  - Sophocles’ *Antigone*
  - Aristophanes’ *Clouds*
  - Plato’s *Apology*
  - Plato’s *Republic*
  - Aristotle’s *Politics*

## VI Assignments Overview

Percentage	Assignment	Due Date
10%	Tutorial Participation	Every tutorial
10%	Attendance	Every class and tutorial
15%	Individual Presentation	Each student must give a presentation
10%	1 <sup>st</sup> quiz	January 28 <sup>th</sup> 12:01 am- 11:59 pm (Sophocles)
10%	2 <sup>nd</sup> quiz	February 4 <sup>th</sup> 12:01 am- 11:59 pm (Aristophanes)
10%	3 <sup>rd</sup> quiz	March 11 <sup>th</sup> 12:01 am- 11:59 pm (Plato's <i>Apology</i> )
20%	Group Debate	February 25 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>Antigone</i> ) or March 4 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>Socrates</i> )
15%	Short Play	April 1 <sup>st</sup>

## VII Format

Attendance (10%) and participation (10%): You are expected to attend every class and tutorial. Furthermore, you must contribute meaningfully to your tutorial discussions and debates. This means you must engage with the conversations taking place in your tutorials in a respectful manner and participate in the exchange of ideas.

Individual presentation (15%): Every student must do an individual presentation and more than one person may present per tutorial. During the tutorial the presenter is tasked with discussing one element of the reading which they found interesting for that week and convey why they found it interesting. They must also pose a question for the entire tutorial that was on their mind when reading the section. This presentation should be between 3-4 minutes.

Quizzes (10% per quiz, 30% total): There will be three quizzes on Brightspace for you to answer. First quiz is on Sophocles' *Antigone*, second quiz will be on Aristophanes' *Clouds* and the final and third quiz will be on Plato's *Apology*. Each quiz will be open for the period of 24 hours. There will be 5 multiple choice questions, and each question is worth 2% for a total of 10% per quiz.

Group Debate (20%): On the first day of tutorials, you will be separated into 4 groups. One group will be tasked with accusing Antigone while another group will be tasked with defending her, another group is tasked with defending Socrates and the final group will be playing Socrates' accusers. The groups who will be defending Socrates and Antigone are their lawyers and the group accusing Socrates are the Athenian prosecutors while those who are prosecuting Antigone are Creon sympathisers. Your TA will be the judge and decide which sides made the most compelling arguments. Both debates will be held in your tutorial. The debate over Antigone's innocence will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup> while the debate over Socrates' innocence will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Short play (15%): In the same four groups decided on the first day of tutorial, prepare a 10-page short play (Times New Roman font 12) with characters holding a political discussion. The finished project should be handed to your TA on the final day of tutorial. The play does not need to revolve around the characters we studied nor does it need to be set in Ancient Athens. Your

group can choose whatever settings and characters that best help the play meet the following requirements:

- The play tackles the issue of political polarization and/or group thinking
- Tries to answer *What is politics* or *What is the goal of politics*.
- Has at least three characters
- Is set in a real historical time period
- Is well researched (you will need a bibliography and proper citations, however the bibliography does NOT count towards the 10 page requirement)
- Is coherent and follows a cohesive argument
- Conveys a political lesson to your audience

Late Assignments: If you cannot submit an assignment on time, you must inform both your TA and myself before the due date via email and you must provide proper documentation regarding the situation. Accommodations could be granted on a case-by-case bases whenever appropriate.

ChatGPT and other AI usage: I strongly discourage you from using ChatGPT or any other AI for the duration of this course.

## VIII Course schedule

1 <sup>st</sup> week Introductions	<b>January 7<sup>th</sup></b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> week Thucydides <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> Book 3.1-49.	<b>January 14<sup>th</sup></b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> week Sophocles <i>Antigone</i>	<b>January 21<sup>st</sup></b>
4 <sup>th</sup> week ( <b>1<sup>st</sup> Quiz Due</b> ) Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i>	<b>January 28<sup>th</sup></b>
5 <sup>th</sup> week ( <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quiz Due</b> ) Plato's <i>Apology</i>	<b>February 4<sup>th</sup></b>
6 <sup>th</sup> week Plato's <i>Republic Book 1</i>	<b>February 11<sup>th</sup></b>
7 <sup>th</sup> week Winter Break	<b>February 18<sup>th</sup></b>
8 <sup>th</sup> week ( <b>Antigone Debate Due</b> ) Plato's <i>Republic Book 2</i>	<b>February 25<sup>th</sup></b>

9<sup>th</sup> week (**Socrates Debate Due**)  
Plato's *Republic Book 6*

**March 4<sup>th</sup>**

10<sup>th</sup> week (**3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz Due**)  
Plato's *Republic Book 7*

**March 11<sup>th</sup>**

11<sup>th</sup> week  
Aristotle *Politics Book 1*

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**

12<sup>th</sup> week  
Aristotle *Politics Book 2*

**March 25<sup>th</sup>**

13<sup>th</sup> week (**Short Play Due**)  
Aristotle *Politics Book 3*

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

## Political Science Course Outline Appendix

### 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:

#### Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

#### **Emergency Resources (on and off campus):**

<https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

#### **Carleton Resources:**

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC):

<https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS):

<https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/>

#### **Off Campus Resources:**

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389,

<https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

#### **Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances:**

Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

**Pregnancy:** 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

**Religious obligation:** 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 [click here](#).

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) 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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). 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).

**Survivors of Sexual Violence:** As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its 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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

**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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

#### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

#### 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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

#### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is **January 31, 2025**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is **November 15, 2024**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is **March 15, 2025**.

**WDN:** For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

#### OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: **December 9-21, 2024**. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: **April 11-26, 2025** (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).

#### GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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#### 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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

**RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)**

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640
Loeb	
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Library	
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
Nideyinàn	
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory