

PSCI 2301A

History of Political Thought

Mon. and Wed. 11:35am to 2:25pm

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. K.C. Fitzpatrick
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Office Hours: Wed. 3:00 – 4:00
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Course Description

The Early Summer Course of History of Political Thought will cover the three key thinkers of the Classical and Christian period in Western Political Theory: Plato, Aristotle and Augustine. The aim and objective of this course is to introduce students to foundational texts in the Western tradition and give them the opportunity to experience a firsthand engagement with political philosophy. To this end, students will be required to read extended selections from the original texts in order that they gain an understanding, not only of the content and controversies of the political questions interrogated therein; but will learn to do by doing. In political philosophy, the “how” of the process is equally as important as the “what” and students are expected to demonstrate in their essay and exam answers that they have struggled to define and rationally assess the questions under discussion themselves, as well as demonstrating a clear and competent grasp of the thoughts and ideas encountered in the reading and lecture material. One of the key lessons of studying the history of political theory is to learn about continuity and change by comparing and contrasting the different approaches of different periods to recurrent themes and questions in the tradition.

Pondering politics in a philosophical manner is to actually engage in the process of thinking as an end in itself. Philosophy is derived from the Greek for the love of wisdom; and to seek wisdom concerning politics is to encounter the limits and possibilities of human nature and its place in the world. As each thinker encounters his own search for the truth, he turns to his own reflections and experience in light of those who went before him. Themes to be explored during the course of the

summer reading and lecture series will be the nature of justice, the organization of the polis, the good life, virtue, citizenship and the rule of law, good and evil, original sin and free will, the relation of secular and divine authority, providence and the promise of redemption and salvation. Political philosophy is a living tradition and this class is an invitation to join the great human conversation, in the words of Hannah Arendt in the eternal now, between past and future.

Sources (In Chronological Order of Lecture Series):

1. Bloom, Allan, *The Republic of Plato*, 2nd Edition, Basic Books 1991 ISBN- 978-0-465-D6934-7
2. Aristotle, *The Politics*, Translated by Carnes Lord, 1984, The University of Chicago Press (Chicago and London) ISBN 978-226-02669-5
3. Augustine, *Political Writings*, Translated by Michael W. Tkacz and Douglas Kries, (Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis, Indiana) 1994, ISBN 9780872202108

A Cautionary Tale for Supplemental Short-Cuts

As one of the key aims and objectives of this course is to encourage students in the validity and value of their own thoughts and ideas, the required readings in this class are taken directly from the original texts and not from derivative and secondary source material. While the use of simplified explanatory materials (whether from “short introductory texts” or websites) may seem tempting when confronted and disconcerted by unfamiliar styles, complex ideas and challenging material, this after all is actual point of the exercise and a necessary part of the learning process. As a word of warning, such materials while supplemental will actively hurt you academically if you substitute them for the original texts. There is nothing like the confidence and independence to be gained from the challenge of engaging the real thing; they are the voices of genius from the past that will open your mind and spirit in inspiring and unexpected ways. Secondary sources, may summarize material, but will lack the passion and originality of the author and besides boring you to tears, will overwhelm you with information of the worst kind and prevent you from doing the one thing that is key to success in this class, thinking for yourself.

Use and/or citation of secondary materials of any kind in essays or exams is **strictly forbidden** and will result in a failing grade.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

20% 1st Short Essay - 5 to 6 pages (**due May 25, 2015**, at the end of Class)

20% 2nd Short Essay - 5 to 6 pages (**due June 8, 2015**, at the end of Class)

20% 3rd Short Essay 5 – 6 pages (**due June 15, 2015**)

15% Participation

25% Final Exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar)

**Schedule of Lectures and Required Readings: Part 1: Early Summer Term
Classical and Christian Periods**

Class 1: Mon. May 4, Plato, The Republic Bk. I-II

Class 2: Wed. May 6, Plato, The Republic Bk. III-IV

Class 3: Mon. May 11 Plato, The Republic Bk. V-VI

Class 4: Wed. May. 13, Plato, The Republic Bk. VII - VIII

Class 5: Wed. May 20, Plato, The Republic Bk. IX - X

Class 6: Mon. May 25, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. I

Class 7: Wed. May 27, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. III

Class 8: Mon. June 1, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. IV and Bk. V

Class 9: Wed. June 3, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. VII and Bk. VIII

Class 10: Mon. June 8, Augustine, Political Writings,

Bk. I, (chap. 1, 19, 21,) Bk. IV, (chap. 4, 33) Bk.V (chap. 9, 16 – 19), Bk VIII, (ch. 3, 6, 10), Bk. X (chap. 3, 14), Bk. XI (chap. 16, 26) Bk. XII (chap. 1, 4,6)

Class 11: Wed. June 10, Augustine, Political Writings,

Bk XIV (chap. 6, 11, 25), Bk. XV (chap. 2, 4, 22), Bk. XVIII (chap. 2, 41, 54), Bk XIX (chap. 1, 2, 13 – 19), Bk. XX (chap. 1, 2, 11), Bk. XXI (chap. 16, 24), Bk. XXII (chap. 1, 6, 29, 30)

Class 12: Mon. June 15, Exam Review

Administration and Regulations

Course work will be evaluated by the content of their critical and analytical thought as well as the basic requirement that students demonstrate a clear and competent understanding of lecture material and the assigned course readings. Writing style, including spelling, grammar and the thoughtful presentation of a coherent structure and argument, will also be taken into consideration.

***All Assignments must be handed in hard-copy at the end of Class or deposited in the Political Science Drop-Box: Email submission is not permitted.**

Late Submission of Work: Papers/assignments must be submitted in class to the Instructor on the day they are due. **The Political Science drop-box is intended to**

collect late assignments only, or if a student has extenuating circumstances which have been approved by the instructor, at least a week before the due date. There will be a mandatory late penalty for any papers/assignments collected from the drop box without prior approval, **even on the date the assignment is due**. This policy has been implemented to ensure students attend class on assignment due dates. The drop box is emptied every weekday at 4 p.m. and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with the day's date. **Late penalties are one-third letter grade per day late**, i.e. a paper grade B+ is downgraded to B the first late day, followed by B- the next etc. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted without a prior extension being granted by the instructor. Valid medical excuses only accepted for term work extensions.

Note: Attendance is required at all lectures. Valid excuses accepted, otherwise absenteeism will not be tolerated; participation is a key course component. Students are expected to bring the book we are reading to class lectures.

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.

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.