

Carleton University

Early Summer Term 2020

Department of Political Science

PSCI 2301-A

History of Political Thought

May 4 – June 16

Instructor: Dr. K.C. Fitzpatrick

Telephone: (613) 240-2810

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00pm – 2:00pm: appointments by email + teleconference

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Course Content

The Fall 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 content of the course will introduce students to foundational texts in the Western tradition and give them the opportunity to experience a firsthand engagement with political philosophy. This summer, PSCI 2301 will be delivered as an on-line course with lecture materials in the form of power-point presentations and Kaltura Capture recorded lectures. The lecture series will be produced sequentially throughout the weeks of the term and students are responsible for accessing these materials at their own pace. Consultations with the T.A. and the Instructor will be by email and/or teleconference as required by the students. The Instructor will be available for office hours via teleconference on Tuesdays, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, by appointment on a first come/first served basis but all will be accommodated, even if I have to extend the hours. During high-traffic periods (around assignment deadlines etc.) students must be prepared to be patient and/or flexible. The T.A. will also be holding office hours during these peak times (before and after assignments) for grade consultations.

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. 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.

Course Aims and Objectives

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. The key aim of this course is to gain experience with the original texts to stimulate critical and reflective thought on the classical themes of political thought through direct engagement and analysis of the text. Students will learn independent and original thought through the exercise of answering essay questions specific to a central teaching of each text as the class progresses.

Each essay will require the student to formulate an original premise that is then developed and supported by rational argument and brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The objective is to gain an understanding, not only of the content and controversies of the political questions interrogated therein; but to 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 critical content of the questions under discussion in a full and comprehensive manner. Assessment of the Essay and Exam questions will be based on the demonstrated ability to clearly and competently grasp the themes and concepts encountered in the reading and lecture material. In addition, careful attention to writing style, the use of academic language and concepts, proper spelling, sentence structure and grammar will also be taken into consideration.

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.

Texts (In Chronological Order of Lecture Series):

The Following are the recommended textbooks available through order at the Carleton Bookstore. Other editions and/or free public access materials are acceptable options, BUT these are the translations and edited versions that are the BEST sources to correspond with the course reading requirements and lecture materials.

1. Plato's Republic, 1992, translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised C.D.C. Reeve, ISBN 9780872201361
2. Aristotle, The Politics, 2nd Edition, 2013, translated by Carnes Lord, 1, The University of Chicago Press (Chicago and London) ISBN 978-0226-921-846
3. Augustine, Political Writings, Translated by Michael W. Tkacz and Douglas Kries, (Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis, Indiana) 1994, ISBN 9780872202108

A Cautionary Tale for Short-Cuts and “secondary source material”

As a central aim and objective 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 be useful and tempting supplemental material, they cannot be substituted for the original texts themselves. While it is difficult and often frustrating to encounter classical texts which are written in unfamiliar styles, and present complex ideas and challenging material, this after all is actual point of the exercise and a necessary part of the learning process.

In reality, these texts are more accessible than one would fear and are meant to stimulate public thought, debate and reflection on key political issues. 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.

Secondary sources may be used to guide your own thought and reflection BUT Use and/or Citation of secondary materials of any kind in essays or exams is strictly forbidden and will result in a failing grade. Students must only use the original texts for all evidence and citation used in essays and exams.

Course Components and Evaluation:

Specific instructions will accompany each required essay and the final exam and will be posted in the assignment function in CuLearn. In general Essay content requirements will follow the argumentative form, containing a clear and original thesis statement, introduction, supporting arguments, counter-argument and conclusion. Thesis originality and essay structure and organization will form basis of the assessment criteria, but use of academic language and concepts + writing quality (spelling, sentence structure and grammar, as well as proper citation of source materials will also be taken into consideration.) Questions regarding lecture content and/or assignments and grading can be addressed through email exchange and/or teleconference with the instructor or the teaching assistant as required

Required Essay Assignments

25% 1st Plato Short Essay - 5 to 6 pages (due Mon. May 18, 2020)

25% 2nd Aristotle Short Essay - 5 to 6 pages (due Mon. June 1, 2020)

25% 3rd Augustine Short Essay – 5 to 6 pages (due Mon. June 15, 2020).

The Final Take-Home Exam

The take-home exam will be posted on CuLearn on the last day of class and will be due 1 week later. The exam will consist of three sections as follows: Part A: identify and discuss key concepts (30%), Part B: Short Answer Questions (40%) and an Essay Question (30%).

25% Take- Home Final Exam (due Mon. June 22, 2020)

Note on Cumulative Assessment in Calculation of Final Grade

Grades on all four (4) Course Components will contribute to the calculation of the final total to establish the final course grade, each weighted to 25%. Failure to complete an individual course component will not result in a failing course grade, BUT the grade of “0” will be entered for an incomplete component and calculated into the total of the final course grade.

Schedule of Lectures and Required Readings:

As PSCI 2301 – Early Summer 2020 will be delivered on-line, required readings and Lecture materials will be posted on CuLearn in the form of Kaltura capture recorded lectures and power-point presentations. Lecture materials will be posted sequentially as the course precedes through the term and students are advised to follow along chronologically, as lectures are cumulative and may contain materials covered in previous classes. As an online course however; students are permitted to access lecture materials at their own pace and at their own self-direction.

Class 1: May 4 – 6, Plato, The Republic Bk. I-II

Class 2: May 6 - 8, Plato, The Republic Bk. III-IV

Class 3: May 11 - 13, Plato, The Republic Bk. V-VI

Class 4: May 18 - 20, Plato, The Republic Bk. VII - VIII

Class 5: May 20 – 22, Plato, The Republic Bk. IX - X

Class 6: May 25 - 27, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. I

Class 7: May 27 - 29, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. III, Bk. IV and Bk. V

Class 8: June 1 – June 3, Aristotle, Politics, Bk. VII and Bk. VIII

Class 9: June 3 - June 5, Augustine, Political Writings, Bk. I, (chap. 1, 21,) Bk. II (chap. 4, 19, 21, 29) Bk. III (chap. 9, 10, 30) Bk. IV, (chap. 4, 27, 33) Bk.V, (chap. 9, 16 – 19), Bk VIII, (chap. 3, 6, 8, 10),

Class 10: June 8 – June 10, Augustine Political Writings, Bk. X (chap. 3, 14), Bk. XI (chap. 16, 17, 26, 33) Bk. XII (chap. 1, 4, 6, 24, 28), Bk. XIII (chap. 2, 14) Bk XIV (chap. 5, 6, 11, 13, 25, 28), Bk. XV (chap. 2, 4, 22),

Class 11: June 10 – June 12, Augustine, Political Writings, Bk. XVII (chap. 7, 13, 23) Bk. XVIII (chap. 2, 41, 54), Bk XIX (chap. 1, 2, 4, 7, 12 – 19, 24), Bk. XX (chap. 1, 2, 9, 11, 30), Bk. XXI (chap. 8, 16, 24), Bk. XXII (chap. 1, 6, 8, 29, 30)

Class 12: Mon., June 15, Conclusion and Exam Review

Late Submission of Required Assignments

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 via the on-line CuLearn Assignment submission system. Email submission is not permitted.**

Late Submission of Work: Late submission of work is only permissible with medical documentation. Any extension may be granted **due to extenuating circumstances which have been approved by the instructor, at least three days before the due date.** There will be a mandatory late penalty for any papers/assignments collected after the appointed due 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.

Academic Accommodations

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 obligation

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 obligation 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

Academic 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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 is 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

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 compete or perform 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

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).

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.