

PSCI 2301 (A)

History of Political Thought I

Wednesday, 14:35 p.m. – 16:25 p.m.

Nicol Building Room 4020.

I General information

Instructor: Ali Elyasi

Office Hours: By appointment only.

Email: ali.elyasi@carleton.ca

II Course description

In this course we will look at basic foundational texts of political theory, we will tackle writings of Ancient Greek philosophers, comics, tragedians, historians and the greatest Muslim philosophers of the medieval ages. We will look at what these authors can teach us about demagoguery and how they understood the problem. It is undeniable that we live in one of the most polarized political conditions in recent memory. Citizens who are alienated from their political communities 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 individuals. We will read the works of Thucydides, Sophocles, Aristophanes, Plato, Aristotle and Alfarabi.

The aim of the course is to give a cursory look at some important Ancient Greek and medieval 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 perspective 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 foundation of political thought
- C) An appreciation for different ways of understanding group thinking
- D) A new perspective on how and why political division transpire
- E) An insight into Ancient Greek understanding of politics

V Required Texts

- Alfarabi, *The Political Writings: "Selected Aphorisms" and Other Texts* (Cornell University Press, 2001, 1st Edition, translated and Annotated by Charles E. Butterworth)
- Other required texts for this course can be accessed for free on Tuft's University Perseus Digital Library.
- Simply go to perseus.tufts.edu and you should arrive at the website. You can also do a quick google search to find it.
- On the website click on the "Collections/Texts" button at the top of the page



- Click the "Greek and Roman Materials" button

Browse the Collections

[Greek and Roman Materials](#)

Primary and secondary sources for the stud

[Art & Archaeology Artifact Browser](#)

Look through a massive library of art o
Descriptions and images have been prc

- 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.

▼ Aristotle.

[Athenian Constitution](#). Kenyon. (Greek) [Aristot. Const. Ath.] [search this work](#)

[Athenian Constitution](#). H. Rackham. (English) [Aristot. Const. Ath.] [search this work](#)

[Economics](#). (Greek) [Aristot. Econ.] [search this work](#)

[Economics](#). (English) [Aristot. Econ.] [search this work](#)

[Eudemian Ethics](#). (Greek) [Aristot. Eud. Eth.] [search this work](#)

[Eudemian Ethics](#). (English) [Aristot. Eud. Eth.] [search this work](#)

[Metaphysics](#). (Greek) [Aristot. Met.] [search this work](#)

[Metaphysics](#). (English) [Aristot. Met.] [search this work](#)

[Nicomachean Ethics](#). J. Bywater. (Greek) [Aristot. Nic. Eth.] [search this work](#)

[Nicomachean Ethics](#). H. Rackham. (English) [Aristot. Nic. Eth.] [search this work](#)

[Poetics](#). (Greek) [Aristot. Poet.] [search this work](#)

[Poetics](#). (English) [Aristot. Poet.] [search this work](#)

[Politics](#). (Greek) [Aristot. Pol.] [search this work](#)

[Politics](#). (English) [Aristot. Pol.] [search this work](#)

[Rhetoric](#). W. D. Ross. (Greek) [Aristot. Rh.] [search this work](#)

[Rhetoric](#). J. H. Freese. (English) [Aristot. Rh.] [search this work](#)

[Virtues and Vices](#). I. Bekker. (Greek) [Aristot. Vir.] [search this work](#)

[Virtues and Vices](#). H. Rackham. (English) [Aristot. Vir.] [search this work](#)

- 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
15%	Tutorial participation	Every tutorial
15%	Attendance	Every class and tutorial
15%	Individual presentation	Each student must give a presentation
5%	1 st quiz	September 27 th 12:01 am- 12:59 pm(Sophocles)
5%	2 nd quiz	October 4 th 12:01 am- 12:59 pm (Aristophanes)
5%	3 rd quiz	November 1 st 12:01 am- 12:59 pm (Plato's <i>Apology</i>)
25%	Group Debate	October 18 th
15%	In-class Essay	December 6 th

VII Format

Attendance (15%) and participation (15%): 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, discuss it, and tell their classmates why they found it interesting. They must also pose a question for the entire tutorial that was on their mind when reading the section. Presentation should be between 3-4 minutes.

Quizzes (5% per quiz, 15% 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 1% for a total of 5% per quiz.

Group Debate (25%): On the first day of tutorials, you will be separated into two groups. One group is tasked with defending Socrates and the other tasked with accusing Socrates. The group which will be defending Socrates are his lawyers and the group which accuses Socrates are the Athenian prosecutors. Your TA will be the judge and decide which side made the most compelling arguments. This debate will be on October 18th in your tutorial.

In-class Essay (15%): You will be given a question in class on December 6th and you must use the rest of the class to answer the question. You are to write enough to answer the question adequately so, make sure to understand the question and answer it. This is an open book essay, and you will write on paper so make sure to bring appropriate writing tools. You must use either black or blue pen, no other pen colour is acceptable.

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.

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

VIII Course schedule

1st week **Clash of the Classics**

Wednesday September 6th: Introductions

2nd week **One Angry Man**

Wednesday September 13th: Thucydides *History of the Peloponnesian War* Book 3.1-49.

3rd week **The Iron Giants**

Wednesday September 20th: Sophocles *Antigone*

4th week **Philosopher and the Deathly Politics**

Wednesday September 27th: Aristophanes *Clouds*

5th week **To Kill a Philosopher**

Wednesday October 4th: Plato's *Apology*

6th week **Philosopher Day**

Wednesday October 11th: Plato's *Republic Book 1*

7th week **Saving Private Glaucon**

Wednesday October 18th: Plato's *Republic Book 2*

8th week **No Class, Watch Something Good**

Wednesday October 25th: Fall Break

9th week **Pirates of the Political**

Wednesday November 1st: Plato's *Republic Book 6*

10th week **Journey to the Center of the Cave**

Wednesday November 8th: Plato's *Republic Book 7*

11th week **Wall-eTotle**

Wednesday November 15th: Aristotle *Politics Book 1*

12th week **When Aristotle Met Socrates**

Wednesday November 22nd: Aristotle *Politics Book 2*

13th week

Good Willed Philosophers

Wednesday November 29th: Alfarabi *Harmonization of the Two Sages: Plato the Divine and Aristotle*

14th week

Good Luck!

Wednesday December 6th: In-person Essay

Appendix

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/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

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 [click here](#).

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 details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will 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. For more information, please [click here](#).

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.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy 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, websites, 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question 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. 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.