

PSCI 2301 (A)

History of Political Thought I

Fridays, 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

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

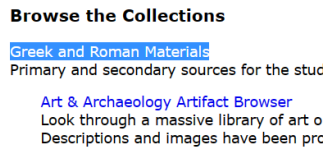
- B) A preliminary understanding of foundations of political thought
- C) An appreciation for different ways of understanding group thinking
- D) A new perspective on how and why political divisions transpire
- E) An insight into Ancient Greek understanding of politics

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 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 st quiz	September 27 th 12:01 am- 12:59 pm (Sophocles)
10%	2 nd quiz	October 4 th 12:01 am- 12:59 pm (Aristophanes)
10%	3 rd quiz	November 1 st 12:01 am- 12:59 pm (Plato's <i>Apology</i>)
20%	Group Debate	October 11 th (<i>Antigone</i>) or 18 th (<i>Socrates</i>)
15%	Short Play	December 6 th

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 October 11th while the debate over Socrates' innocence will be on October 18th.

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 st week Wednesday September 6 th : Introductions	September 6th
2 nd week Wednesday September 13 th : Thucydides <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> Book 3.1-49.	September 13th
3 rd week Wednesday September 20 th : Sophocles <i>Antigone</i>	September 20th
4 th week (1st Quiz Due) Wednesday September 27 th : Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i>	September 27th
5 th week (2nd Quiz Due) Wednesday October 4 th : Plato's <i>Apology</i>	October 4th
6 th week (Antigone Debate Due) Wednesday October 11 th : Plato's <i>Republic Book 1</i>	October 11th
7 th week (Socrates Debate Due) Wednesday October 18 th : Plato's <i>Republic Book 2</i>	October 18th
8 th week Wednesday October 25 th : Fall Break	October 25th

9 th week (3rd Quiz Due)	November 1st
Wednesday November 1 st : Plato's <i>Republic Book 6</i>	
10 th week	November 8th
Wednesday November 8 th : Plato's <i>Republic Book 7</i>	
11 th week	November 15th
Wednesday November 15 th : Aristotle <i>Politics Book 1</i>	
12 th week	November 22nd
Wednesday November 22 nd : Aristotle <i>Politics Book 2</i>	
13 th week	November 29th
Wednesday November 29 th : Aristotle <i>Politics Book 3</i>	
14 th week (Short Play Due)	December 6th
Wednesday December 6 th : Aristotle <i>Politics Book 4</i>	

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

Deferred final exams, which must be applied for at the RO, are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course. The course outline must stipulate any minimum standards for good standing that a student must meet to be entitled to write a deferred final exam.

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

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Please contact your instructor if you are experiencing circumstances that (a) are beyond your control, (b) have a significant impact your capacity to meet your academic obligations, and (c) could not have reasonably been prevented. Decisions on academic consideration are in your instructor's discretion; they will be guided by the course learning outcomes and the principle of good faith. Please see [here](#) for more details. For considerations relating to course work, your instructor may request that you complete the [Self-Declaration form](#). To apply for a deferral of your final exam, you must submit the Self-Declaration form to the Registrar's Office no later than three days after the scheduled examination or take-home due date.

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](#).

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (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).

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.

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 the 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. **outline.**