

PSCI 2301 (A)
History of Political Thought I
Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:35 – 14:25
Online Asynchronous

I General Information

Instructor: Sacha Ghandeharian
Office Hours: please email to request virtual meeting.
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TA: TBA

Email communication is to be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts, not personal accounts. Please allow up to 2 working days for a response and note that emails with questions already answered on this outline/Brightspace may not receive a reply. Students are responsible for regularly checking their Carleton email and Brightspace and for being aware of any posted information.

II Course Description

The focus of this course is on Western classical political thought from the era of ancient Greece. The course will focus on Thucydides, Plato, and Aristotle to explore some of the foundational topics at the heart of political theory, such as: the source and shape of political order, including the question of who should rule, the meaning and value of justice in contrast to power, the role of knowledge in personal and political life, and the relationship between politics and the cultivation of virtue and the good life. The goal of acquiring an understanding of what these key figures in the history of political thought argue in their texts will intersect with the development of skills related to analytical reading and writing.

III Course Format

This is an online asynchronous course with pre-recorded lectures (narrated PowerPoint) as the primary method of instruction; there will typically be two lectures posted per week and following the schedule below. Lectures will provide students with explanations and additional context to guide and support their own reading of the key thinkers/texts. Brightspace discussion boards will allow students to interact with one another and the teaching team on the content of the course. Students can request an office hours appointment if they have longer form questions that cannot be addressed via the discussion boards and/or email; office hours will be by appointment (email request in advance) and via Zoom.

IV Learning Outcomes

- Gain knowledge of key thinkers/ideas from the ancient period of the history of political thought
- Develop skills related to the reading and interpretation of primary texts in political thought
- Strengthen abilities related to academic writing and the communication of ideas and arguments

V Texts

The following required texts will be available at the Carleton University Bookstore

Aristotle. 2013. *Aristotle's Politics*. Second Edition. Translated by Carnes Lord. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0-226-92184-6.

Plato. 2016. *The Republic of Plato*. Third Edition. Edited and translated by Allan Bloom. New York: Basic Books. 978-0-465-09408-0. (Second Edition can also be used, 1991, ISBN: 978-0-465-06934-7).

It is expected that students will use and cite the versions of the texts identified above, as well as the other required readings available via the Library's ARES Reserves system (accessible via Brightspace).

VI Evaluation at a Glance

- Quizzes: 20%
 - Quiz 1 (Due July 17): 10%
 - Quiz 2 (Due August 7): 10%
- Participation (5 posts; due July 24 and August 9; details below): 10%
- Interpretive Essay (Due August 2): 30%
- Final Take Home Exam (Due August 23): 40%

TOTAL: 100%

VII Evaluation in Detail

Quizzes (due July 17 and August 7): 20%

There will be 2 quizzes based on the material presented in the lectures and readings. Question types can include multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer. Each Quiz will be available for a period of 3 days, but there will be a time-limit once started and only 1 attempt will be permitted. The quizzes will be open-book, but course materials only – i.e., outside sources (e.g. Google), are not allowed. It is expected that students will prepare in advance for the quizzes. The quizzes must be completed independently. Each quiz will be worth 10% and together account for 20% of the final course grade. Quiz 1 must be completed by 11:59PM on July 17 and Quiz 2 must be completed by 11:59PM on August 7. Deferrals will only be granted for legitimate reasons and where university policy has been followed. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the deadline.

Participation (due July 24 and August 9): 10%

Students will be required to post 5 discussion posts over the course of the term (100-200 words each). Each post will be worth up to 2 marks and taken together up to a maximum of 10 marks (total) for the Participation requirement. Posts should be a clear and concise comment responding to one of the discussion questions included at the end of each lecture. Each of the 5 posts must be for a different lecture and at least 2 posts must be for Lectures 1-5 and at least 2 posts must be for Lectures 6-11 (the 5th post can fall in either group). Posts will be judged based on how well written they are (i.e., proper spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and citation [when needed]) and on the extent to which they reflect that the student has completed the lecture, readings, and reflected on the material. Posts for Lectures 1-5 are due by 11:59PM on July 24 and posts for Lectures 6-11 are due by 11:59PM on August 9.

Students are also welcome to ask questions about the material, or respond to their peers' posts, in the same discussion boards; however, only 5 posts responding to the lecture discussion questions will be evaluated for the purposes of the Participation grade. As such, students are asked to clearly label their posts to indicate which posts they want included in the 5 for evaluation. To do so, students can write "FOR EVALUATION" at the beginning of posts. Extensions/make-ups will only be granted for legitimate reasons and where university policy has been followed. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the deadline.

Interpretive Essay (due August 2): 30%

Students will be given more specific instructions for the essay during the term; however, the interpretive essay will require students to explain, analyze, and present an argument about a specific passage from Plato's *Republic*. The purpose of the essay is to demonstrate understanding of, and ability to critically reflect on, important aspects of the course material through specific engagement with the readings (always with citation), and in an effectively organized and written academic essay. Please note that the focus is the specific readings and lectures for this course, and those two sources should be all that are needed to complete the interpretive essay. Thus, the use of outside sources is unnecessary and should be avoided; if for some reason content from an outside source is used for the essay, it **must** be appropriately cited. Please also note that failing to follow assignment instructions (communicated on this outline or posted to Brightspace) could result in a grade as low as 0 on the assignment. It is essential that students be aware of what constitutes plagiarism (see 'Appendix') and avoid committing it.

Late policy for interpretive essay: late essays will be accepted, but only if they are submitted to Brightspace within 5 calendar days of the due date and will be subject to a penalty of 2% per calendar day. Late essays will not be accepted past 5 calendar days and a grade of 0 will be assigned. Extensions will only be granted for legitimate reasons and where university policy has been followed. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible, and normally no later than 24 hours after the deadline.

Final Take Home Exam (due August 23): 40%

The Final Take Home Exam will be posted to Brightspace on the last day of term (August 14) and due via Brightspace submission before 11:59PM ET on August 23. Please note that this is a university-wide deadline, and late exams cannot be accepted (dropbox will close at 11:59PM on August 25). If a student cannot submit the exam by the due date for a legitimate reason, then they have the option to apply to the Registrar's Office (via their website and online form) to see if they can be granted an exam deferral. Further information about the final exam will be given near the end of term; however, students should consider any material covered in the course (lectures and readings) as an eligible basis for potential exam questions/prompts and will be expected to include citations to the course materials in their exam. Please note that the focus is the specific lectures and readings for this course, and those two sources are all that are needed to complete the exam. Therefore, the use of outside sources is unnecessary and should be avoided; if for some reason content from an outside source is used in the answer(s), it **must** be appropriately cited. Please also note that failing to follow exam instructions (communicated on this outline or posted to Brightspace) could result in a grade as low as 0 on the exam. It is essential that students be aware of what constitutes plagiarism (see 'Appendix') and avoid committing it.

VIII Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (posted by July 3) – Introduction

ARES: Strauss, Leo. 1959. "What is Political Philosophy?" In *What is Political Philosophy? and Other Studies*. Glencoe: Free Press. (Optional)

Lecture 2 (posted by July 5) – Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*

ARES: Thucydides. 2021. *The Essential Thucydides: On Justice, Power, and Human Nature*. Second Edition. Edited and translated by Paul Woodruff. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company. (Book 1, Section 23; Book 2, Sections 34-46; Book 5, Sections 84-116).

Lecture 3 (posted by July 10) – Plato's *Apology*

ARES: Plato. 2010. "The Apology of Socrates." In *The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo*, translated by Christopher Rowe, 32-62. London: Penguin Books.

Lecture 4 (posted by July 12) – Plato's *Symposium*

ARES: Plato. 1989. *Symposium*. Translated by Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company. (selections).

Lecture 5 (posted by July 17) – Plato's *Republic I* (Book I)

*****Complete Quiz 1 on Brightspace by July 17 before 11:59PM*****

Lecture 6 (posted by July 19) – Plato's *Republic II* (Book II + III)

Lecture 7 (posted by July 24) – Plato's *Republic III* (Book IV + V)

*****Brightspace discussion posts for Lectures 1-5 are due by July 24 before 11:59PM*****

Lecture 8 (posted by July 26) – Plato's *Republic IV* (Book VII + VIII)

Lecture 9 (posted by July 31) – Aristotle's *Ethics*

ARES: Aristotle. 2014. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by C.D.C. Reeve. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company. (Book I, Sections 4-5, 7-9, 13; Book X, Section 9).

Lecture 10 (posted by August 2) – Aristotle's *Politics I* (Book 1, Chapters 1-2; Book 3, Chapters 1-4, 6-9; Book 4, Chapters 1-2, 8, 11)

***** Submit Interpretive Essay on Brightspace by August 2 before 11:59PM*****

Lecture 11 (posted by August 7) – Aristotle's *Politics II* (Book 5, Chapters 8-9; Book 6, Chapters 1-5; Book 7, Chapters 1-3, 13-15)

***** Complete Quiz 2 on Brightspace by August 7 before 11:59PM*****

*****Brightspace discussion posts for Lectures 6-11 are due by August 9 before 11:59PM*****

Final Take Home Exam will be posted on last day of term (August 14) and due on the last day of exam period (August 23).

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.
