

**PSCI 2301 (A)**  
**History of Political Thought I**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 18:05 – 20:55  
Online Asynchronous

I General Information

Instructor: Sacha Ghandeharian  
Office Hours: by appointment on Tuesdays between 6pm – 8pm; via Zoom  
Email: [sacha.ghandeharian@carleton.ca](mailto:sacha.ghandeharian@carleton.ca)  
TA(s): TBD

All email communication is to be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts, not personal emails. 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 university email and Brightspace and for being aware of any posted information/announcements.

II Course Description

The focus of this course is on Western classical political thought in the Ancient Greek era. 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 seek to 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 (see above for default availability window). **Warning:** despite being an asynchronous course with pre-recorded lectures, it is **strongly** recommended that students stay on top of the lectures and readings on a weekly basis and various aspects of the evaluation will require staying consistently engaged in the course. It is the student's responsibility to organize their time to meet the deadlines.

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 strongly recommended that students use and cite the above versions of the texts. Other required readings will be available via the Library's ARES Reserves system which can be accessed via Brightspace.

## VI Evaluation at a Glance

- Lecture Completion (due at intervals indicated below): 15%
- Participation (due at intervals indicated below): 10%
- Interpretive Essay 1 (Due July 20): 25%
- Interpretive Essay 2 (Due August 8): 25%
- Final Take Home Exam (Due August 25): 25%

## VII Evaluation in Detail

### **Lecture Completion: 15%**

Lecture completion will be tracked using the analytics that are provided by Carleton's Mediaspace platform. Students must access lectures via Brightspace and through their own Carleton account to receive credit. Lectures must be consumed in full and by the following dates to receive any credit: **Lectures 1-3** must be completed by **July 20**; **Lectures 4-7** must be completed by **August 8**; **Lectures 8-11** must be completed by **August 15**. Students who complete all the lectures, according to those deadlines, can expect to receive all 15%. Please note that late or incomplete lecture completion will not receive any marks as the above intervals already provide reasonable flexibility and ability to catch-up.

### **Participation: 10%**

Students will receive 1 mark for each lecture (Lectures 2-11) they 'participate' in by posting one clear and concise question or comment about the material on the Brightspace discussion boards (one will be created for each lecture from Lecture 2 to Lecture 11); students are welcome to post more than once in response to a single lecture and to engage with their peers, but multiple responses about the same lecture will still count for only 1 mark – in other words, it is expected that students will engage in all lecture discussion threads (Lectures 2-11) and will need to do so if they hope to receive all 10 marks. Please note that the same date intervals/deadlines listed above for lecture completion will apply to participation; for example, to receive credit for a posted question about Lecture 2, it must be posted to the discussion board by July 20 before 11:59PM. Posted questions and comments must be well written

(proper spelling, grammar, sentence structure, and citation (if needed)) and should reflect that the student has completed the lecture, readings, and made an effort to reflect on the material.

### **Interpretive Essays (1<sup>st</sup> due July 20 and 2<sup>nd</sup> due August 8): 25% each**

The in-term assignments for this course will be in the form of 2 interpretive essays. Students will be given more specific instructions for these essays during the term; however, the tentative plan is that Essay 1 will require students to explain some of the key ideas and arguments presented in the first few readings for the course, and then reflect and make an argument about their significance to the study of politics, while Essay 2 will require students to explain, analyze, and present an argument about a specific passage from Plato's *Republic*. The purpose of these essays is to demonstrate understanding of, and ability to critically reflect on, important aspects of the course material through specific engagement with the relevant 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 assignments. Thus, the use of outside sources is unnecessary and should be avoided; if for some reason content from an outside source must be included, 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 an assignment. It is essential that students be aware of what constitutes plagiarism (see 'Appendix') and avoid committing it.

***Late policy for interpretive essays:*** 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 3% per calendar day. Late essays will not be accepted past 5 calendar days and a grade of 0 will be assigned. Extensions are at the discretion of the instructor and in accordance with university policy. Requests for extension must meet the following three criteria to receive consideration: 1) it must be for a legitimate reason (typically, serious illness or bereavement); 2) it must be made in writing (via email to the instructor) at least 24hrs before the due date; 3) the emailed request must include a proposed revised due date. Students should be prepared to provide supporting documentation upon request. Requests submitted past 24hrs in advance of the deadline will only be considered if it is a case of documented emergency that made it impossible/unreasonable to make the request in advance, and, even if this is the case, the request must be made no later than 3 working days of the due date to receive consideration.

### **Final Take Home Exam (due August 25): 25%**

The Final Take Home Exam will be posted to Brightspace on the last day of term (August 16) and due via Brightspace submission before 11:59PM on August 25. Please note that this is a university-wide deadline and late exams cannot be accepted (the 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 must be included, 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 4)** – 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 6)** – 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 11)** – 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 13)** – Plato's *Symposium*

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

**Lecture 5 (posted by July 18)** – Plato's *Republic* I (Book I)

**Lecture 6 (posted by July 20)** – Plato's *Republic* II (Book II + III)

**\*\*\*Lecture completion and participation for Lectures 1-3 due July 20 before 11:59PM\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Interpretive Essay 1 Due July 20 before 11:59PM via Brightspace dropbox\*\*\***

**Lecture 7 (posted by July 25)** – Plato's *Republic* III (Book IV + V)

**Lecture 8 (posted by July 27)** – Plato's *Republic* IV (Book VII + VIII)

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

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

**\*\*\*Lecture completion and participation for Lectures 4-7 due August 8 before 11:59PM\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Interpretive Essay 2 due August 8 before 11:59PM via Brightspace dropbox\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Lecture completion and participation for Lectures 8-11 due August 15 before 11:59PM\*\*\***

**Final Take Home Exam will be posted on last day of term (August 16) and due on the last day of exam period (August 25).**

## **Appendix**

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### **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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:

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>12-point scale</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>12-point scale</b>
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.