



The debate of Socrates and Aspasia, Nicolas-André Monstau, c. 1800.

PSCI 2301 B
History of Political Thought I
Fridays, 9:35–11:25
Please confirm location by logging into Carleton Central

Instructor: Amanda Roberts (she/her)

Online Office Hours: Thursdays, 12 pm to 2 pm via Zoom on Brightspace OR by appointment

Email: amanda.roberts@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course examines some of the foundational texts in the history of Western political thought. It is an introduction to the ideas, debates, and thinkers that have influenced key concepts in the field of political theory. Although the texts we will be reading this term originate in ancient Greece, they address questions and debates that are inescapable both throughout the history of political thought and in modern politics. These questions include: what is justice, and to whom do we owe it? What is politics? What is philosophy? Who and what is a philosopher? What is the ideal regime? What is democracy? Who and what is a citizen? What does it mean to live in a political community? What is the role of education in politics? What is the role of the family in a political community? Where do women and other minorities fit into a political community?

By examining how Thucydides, Sophocles, Plato, and Aristotle treat these themes and more, students will gain an understanding of the foundations for key concepts in political science more broadly, such as democracy, citizenship, justice, participation, and belonging.

Course Format

This is an in-person course, which means that it will be delivered via in-person, synchronous lectures and discussion groups. Lectures will not be recorded or posted online. Slides will be posted online, but will not include all lecture information. This course is not suitable for online students.

Brightspace & Carleton Email: You are responsible for checking your Carleton Email account and Brightspace regularly (at least once per week) for updates. You **must** use your Carleton email account to communicate with your instructor and TAs.

Office Hours: I will hold office hours online via Zoom (link on Brightspace) every **Thursday from 12pm to 2pm.**

Office hours are a time for students to meet with me to discuss any questions, or to get extra help or clarification. If my set office hours do not work for you, please do not hesitate to make an appointment and we will meet at a time that better suits your schedule.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Read dense texts carefully and critically.
- Develop and defend their own interpretation of a primary source text without the use of secondary sources.
- Compare and contrast the philosophies and key concepts as used by each thinker the course covers (such as justice, democracy, education, family, ideal regimes, etc).
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of key arguments and debates in the history of political thought.

Required Texts (available for purchase at Carleton Bookstore)

Although these texts are available from many publishers and translators, I have selected these translations for maximum clarity and accessibility. Although any translation is acceptable, **I strongly recommend using these translations.** They are available at the Carleton Bookstore, who can ship them to you. Alternately, similar editions will be available on the MacOdrum Library's e-reserves system, ARES, and on Brightspace.

Plato, *The Republic* (Basic Books, 1991, 2nd, or 3rd edition, trans. Allan Bloom)
ISBN 0465069347 **OR** ISBN 0465094082

Aristotle, *The Politics* (Penguin Books, 1981, trans. T.A. Sinclair, revised by Trevor J. Saunders)
ISBN 9780140444216

**** All other readings will be available on Brightspace.**

Course Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Short Passage Interpretation	February 2	20%
Final Essay Thesis Draft (optional)	March 22	2% (optional - bonus marks)
Final Essay	April 10	35%
Take-Home Exam	Formally scheduled during exam period	30%
Tutorial Participation	Weekly, starting week 2	15%

Short Passage Interpretation (20%) – due February 2

You will be asked to interpret a passage excerpt from one of our readings. Using 750 words (min. 700 words, max. 800 words), your response should **argue for a particular interpretation**, covering *what* the passage says, *how* it is being said, and *why* it is significant. This is *not* a research essay, but a chance for us to hear what you think – please do not use sources outside of what is covered in the course. Passage options will be posted on Brightspace with more assignment instructions closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via Brightspace. Grades and comments will be posted there as well.

Final Essay Thesis Draft (2%, bonus marks) – due March 22

For this **optional** bonus assignment, you have the opportunity to submit a draft of the thesis statement you plan to use for your final essay before the essay itself is due. A thesis argues for a particular position, and is the backbone of your paper. This is an opportunity to receive feedback on your thesis that you can then incorporate into your final paper.

This assignment will be graded on a complete/incomplete basis (ex. submitting a thesis on time will earn the full 2% bonus marks, but you will not be penalized for *not* submitting this assignment).

Final Essay (35%) – due April 10

You will be asked to write an essay on one of a series of essay topics/questions. Using 2000 words (min. 1900 words, max. 2100 words), your essay **must contain a thesis that argues for a particular position**. (If you submitted a thesis for the thesis draft assignment, you may of course use that thesis or a modified version of it.) This is *not* a research essay, but an interpretative one – please do not use sources outside of what is covered in the course. Topic choices and additional instructions will be posted on Brightspace closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via Brightspace, and your grades and comments will be posted there as well.

Take-Home Exam (30%) – TBD, formally scheduled

In a formally-scheduled take-home examination, you will be asked to answer a series of short answer questions – some of which will be comparative in nature – on the texts and themes covered in the course. More information, including due date and other instructions, will be posted on Brightspace.

Tutorial Participation (15%)

Discussion and reflection is an important element of this course. Discussing with others gives you an opportunity to engage with the readings/lecture material critically, and learn from one another and your TAs. Tutorials will be held in person. Students are expected to attend tutorials having completed the mandatory readings, prepare questions or comments, and contribute actively and respectfully to the discussion with their classmates. Attendance will be taken regularly.

I understand that, for some students, participating in class can seem daunting. In this case, my suggestion is to spend 10 minutes before tutorial writing out one point, question, or comment to share with your tutorial group. If you know in advance that you will be unable to attend tutorials or otherwise find yourself unable to participate, please reach out to me and we can discuss an alternate way for you to participate.

Course Policies

Compassionate Pedagogy: With the goal of creating an inclusive learning environment, I practice compassionate pedagogy. Personal and family challenges, health issues, and global issues do not cease to affect us simply because we are in university. I give my students the benefit of the doubt and offer flexible solutions wherever possible and within the University's policies. I offer as much availability as I can to meet outside of class to discuss course content or challenges that arise. I encourage my students to take responsibility for their own learning by proposing their own solutions to these challenges and offer support and suggestions where necessary.

Carleton Email Accounts: When communicating with your instructor and TAs, you **must** use your Carleton Email account. Please put the course code (PSCI 2301) in the subject line of the email. I check my email during regular business hours, and you can expect a reply from me within two business days.

Questions: Please reserve email for personal questions (questions regarding your specific situation). If you have a question about course content or logistics/administration, chances are your classmates may have the same question and may find my answer useful. Please use the "Ask Your Instructor" discussion forum on Brightspace for these kinds of general questions.

Late Papers & Extensions: Please contact me **as soon as possible** if you are experiencing a (physical or mental) health-related problem and require accommodations for coursework. Extensions will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Late papers will be penalized by **3% per day including weekends** unless you have contacted me in advance with a legitimate reason for

being late. Without an extension, late assignments will not be accepted more than **seven days** after the original deadline.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – January 12	Introduction Required reading: Course Outline
Week 2 – January 19	Thucydides’ <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> Required reading: Thucydides’ <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> (Excerpts – available on Brightspace) 2.34—46; 5.84—116
Week 3 – January 26	Sophocles’ <i>Antigone</i> Required reading: <i>Antigone</i> (available on Brightspace)
Week 4 – February 2	Plato’s <i>Symposium</i> & Introduction to <i>Republic</i> Required reading: Plato’s <i>Symposium</i> (Excerpts – available on Brightspace), Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Book I (327a–328b) * Short Passage Interpretation due
Week 5 – February 9	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book I
Week 6 – February 16	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book II
Week 7 – February 23	Statutory Holiday – University closed
Week 8 – March 2	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book III & IV
Week 9 – March 9	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book V
Week 10 – March 16	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Required reading: <i>Republic</i> Book VII (514a–520a) & VIII
Week 11 – March 23	Aristotle’s <i>Politics</i> Required reading: Book I (Chapter i—ii, xii, xiii); Book II (Chapter ii, iv, ix); Book III (Chapter i—ii) * Final Essay Thesis (Bonus assignment) due
Week 12 – March 29	Statutory Holiday – University closed
Week 11 – April 5	Aristotle’s <i>Politics</i> Required reading: Book III (Chapter vi—ix); Book IV (Chapter i—ii); Book VI (Chapter i—v), Book VII (Chapter i—iii, xiii)
Week 12 – April 10 (Follows a Friday schedule)	Conclusions & Review *Final Essay due

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:

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](#).

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.