

Carleton University

Winter 2021

Department of Political Science

<http://carleton.ca/polisci/>

PSCI 2301-B

History of Political Thought

January 11 – April 12, 2021

I General Information

Instructor: Dr. K.C. Fitzpatrick

Office hours: On-line office hours Tues., 11:00 am – 1:00 pm via Big Blue Button

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All email communication is to be via official Carleton University email accounts and/or CuLearn, not personal emails

II Course Description

- **Course Content:** History of Political Thought will cover the three key thinkers of the Classical and Christian period in the Western tradition; Plato, Aristotle and Augustine. Students are invited to engage with the foundational texts and explore the theory/praxis of political philosophy. Key themes in the classical period include questions concerning the nature of justice, the organization of the polis, the good life, virtue, citizenship and the rule of law, the variety and function of the different regimes and the nature of the “Good” in the works of Plato and Aristotle. Augustine follows his predecessors in the search for Justice, but introduces Christian themes such as the nature of Good and Evil, original sin, free will, the relation of secular and divine authority, God’s action in the world, the unfolding of Providence in history and the promise of redemption and salvation. Students are invited to explore the timelessness of the nature of the human condition and the search for reason, virtue, justice and wisdom.

- **Aims:** Political philosophy is a living tradition and is, in the words of the great political theorist Hannah Arendt, located in the eternal now, caught between past and future. By understanding the past, we gain insight into the present and can vision the theory/praxis of the future. The key aim of this course is to gain experience with the original texts to stimulate critical, analytical and reflective thought on the classical and Christian themes through direct engagement with the original text. The purpose of education is emancipation through enlightenment and students are encouraged to follow their own intellectual curiosity in dialogue with the text and course materials in an independent learning environment. The class is intended to be student centric and student driven with the Professor acting mainly as guide, mentor, and facilitator
- **Objectives:** Pondering politics in a philosophical manner is to actually engage in the process of thinking as an end in itself. Philosophy is derived from the Greek for the love of wisdom; and to seek wisdom concerning politics is the encounter the limits and possibilities of human nature and its place in the world. As each thinker encounters his own search for the truth, he turns to his own reflections and experience in light of those who went before him. Students will be expected to reflect on their learning and to contribute to the tradition by engaging with the texts and producing/creating their own original thought through structured argumentative essays. The take home exam will allow students to “show off” all they have learned and end the course with a positive demonstration of their mastery of the course content.

III Course Format

This Winter Term, PSCI 2301 will be delivered as an on-line course asynchronous format with lecture materials in the form of power-point presentations and Kaltura Capture recorded lectures posted on CuLearn. The lecture series will be produced sequentially throughout the weeks of the term and students are responsible for accessing these materials at their own pace. Please note that materials will be posted on a class by class basis to encourage students to read the texts first and then use the lectures and power-point slides as interpretive guides. Students are advised to follow along chronologically, as lectures are cumulative and may contain materials covered in previous classes. As an online course however; students are permitted to access lecture materials at their own pace and at their own self-direction.

IV Learning Outcomes and Ongoing Goals

- Building and developing critical and analytical thinking and writing skills in the composition of essays and the take-home exam.
- Building and strengthening critical reflection skills both in the interpretation of the text and in dialogue with others.
- Supporting and encouraging independent thought and original voice as well as developing academic language and concept analysis.
- Building confidence and interpretive skills with the use of classical texts as well as competence with hermeneutic research skills and methodologies
- Expanding critical engagement with contemporary politics by comparing and contrasting modernity with the Classical and Christian eras.
- Creating tolerance and “thinking space” for alternative ways of knowing and being by contextualizing and situating the “Western Tradition”.
- Decolonizing our minds, bodies and spirits by promoting equality and respect for our own and others’ traditions of governance and justice.

V Texts

Recommended Texts and an Important Warning about Other Editions

Recommended text books available through order at the Carleton Bookstore and/or may be found in second-hand stores in the city and/or on-line, in part or in whole.

Be Warned that other editions of the texts by different translators/editors and/or free public access materials are acceptable options, BUT these are different from the recommended text and may have different conceptual translations, text selections, tables of content etc., from the recommended texts.

THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE for finding the required material that they need to complete the course successfully. The best course of action (and the easiest) is to find copies of the recommended texts because they directly correspond to the lecture series and power-point slides.

The Recommended Texts are as Follows:

1. Plato’s Republic, 1992, translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised C.D.C. Reeve, ISBN 9780872201361
2. Aristotle, The Politics, 2nd Edition, 2013, translated by Carnes Lord, 1, The University of Chicago Press (Chicago and London) ISBN 978-0226-921-846
3. Augustine, Political Writings, Translated by Michael W. Tkacz and Douglas Kries, (Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis, Indiana) 1994, ISBN 9780872202108

A Cautionary Tale for Short-Cuts and “secondary source material”

As a central aim and objective of this course is to encourage students in the validity and value of their own thoughts and ideas, the required readings in this class are taken directly from the original texts and not from derivative and secondary source material. While the use of simplified explanatory materials (whether from “short introductory texts” or websites) may be useful and tempting supplemental material, they cannot be substituted for the original texts themselves. While it is difficult and often frustrating to encounter classical texts which are written in unfamiliar styles, complex ideas and challenging methodologies/epistemologies, learning competency in the hermeneutic tradition is the actual point of the exercise and a necessary part of the learning process.

In reality, these texts are more accessible than one would fear and are meant to stimulate independent reflective thought and public dialogue and debate on social, economic and political issues. There is nothing like the confidence and independence to be gained from challenge oneself by engaging the real thing. Classic texts are classic because they embody the genius of their age and will open your mind and spirit in inspiring and unexpected ways. Secondary sources, may summarize material, but will lack the passion and originality of the author and may even mistranslate central concepts and arguments as intended by the theorist in question. Besides boring you to tears, summarized materials will overwhelm you with information of the worst kind and prevent you from doing the one thing that is key to success in this class, thinking for yourself.

Secondary sources may be used to guide your own thought and reflection BUT Use and/or Citation of secondary materials of any kind in essays or exams is strictly forbidden and will result in a failing grade. Students must only use the original texts for all evidence and citation used in essays and exams.

VI Evaluation at a Glance:

Short Essay Assignments (Three (3) and One (1) Take Home Exam

25% 1st Plato Short Essay - 5 to 6 pages (due Tues. Feb. 22, 2021)

25% 2nd Aristotle Short Essay - 5 to 6 pages (due Tues. March 15, 2021)

25% 3rd Augustine Short Essay – 5 to 6 pages (due Tues. April 5 2020).

25% Take- Home Final Exam (due Friday, April 27, 2020)

Note on Cumulative Assessment in Calculation of Final Grade

Grades on all four (4) Course Components will contribute to the calculation of the final total to establish the final course grade, each weighted to 25%.

Failure to complete an individual course component will not result in a failing

course grade, BUT the grade of “0” will be entered for an incomplete component and be calculated into the total of the final course grade.

VII Evaluation in Detail: Essay and Exam Course Components

- **Specific instructions** will accompany each required short essay and the final take home exam and will be posted in the assignment function in CuLearn. Essays and exams are assessment tools that are used to evaluate student performance and competency with the course content. Students are expected to demonstrate comprehensive understanding and critical/analytical skills. In general, a “C” means adequate understanding and description, a “B” is comprehensive understanding and conceptual analysis and an “A” is all of the above + critical and original thought. It is imperative that students read and take notes on the original texts and that they provide evidence (citations) from the texts in support of their work when completing essay assignments. Citations are not required (but they are encouraged) on the Take-Home Exam.

- **Three (3) Short Essays: Required Length 5 – 6 pages double spaced**

Each essay will require the student to formulate an original premise that is then developed and supported by rational argument and brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The objective is to gain an understanding, not only of the content and controversies of the political questions interrogated therein; but to learn to produce independent, critical and original thought.

Essays will be in the argumentative style, with a clear and original thesis, developed and expanded through supporting arguments a counter-argument and finally a conclusion. Citation of evidence from the required readings is necessary to support arguments/ideas throughout the short essay. Students must use only the text materials and all citations are from this single source. (Do not cite instructor’s power-point lecture materials, these are only interpretive guides)

Students must demonstrate that they have clearly and competently grasped key themes and concepts encountered in the reading and lecture material, in a comprehensive manner and with depth of understanding. In addition, careful attention to writing style, the use of academic language and concepts, proper spelling, sentence structure and grammar will also be taken into consideration.

The general rubric that will be used to evaluate short essays is as follows:

- 1) Thesis clarity and originality (5%)
- 2) Structure and Organization (5%)
- 3) Critical and analytical thought + use of academic concepts (5%)

- 4) Quality and Quantity of Research + use of evidence and citations (5%)
 - 5) Writing quality and competence, including sentence structure, grammar, spelling and proper/consistent citation style. (5%)
- **The Take-Home Exam** will be posted on CuLearn on the last day of class and will be due on April 27th. Exam questions will be derived from all course materials, lectures, power-points and required readings from the original text (s) (Plato, Aristotle, Augustine) The format of the exam is as follows: Part A: identify and discuss key concepts (30%), Part B: Short Answer Questions (40%) and an Essay Question (30%).

Submission of Assignments and Late Penalties

Late Submission of Required Assignments

***All Assignments must be handed in via the on-line CuLearn Assignment submission system. Email submission is not permitted.**

Late Submission of Work: Late submission of work is only permissible with medical documentation. Any extension may be granted **due to extenuating circumstances which have been approved by the instructor, at least three days before the due date.** There will be a mandatory late penalty for any papers/assignments collected after the appointed due date. **Late penalties are one-third letter grade per day late**, i.e. a paper grade B+ is downgraded to B the first late day, followed by B- the next etc. Papers more than 1 week late will not be accepted without a prior extension being granted by the instructor. Valid medical reasons only accepted for term work extensions.

VIII Schedule of Lectures and Required Readings:

Class 1: Tues., Jan. 11, Plato, Introduction and The Republic Bk. I-II

Class 2: Tues., Jan 18, Plato, The Republic Bk. III-IV

Class 3: Tues., Jan. 28, Plato, The Republic Bk. V-VI

Class 4: Tues., Feb. 1, Plato, The Republic Bk. VII - VIII

Class 5: Tues., Feb. 8, Plato, The Republic Bk. IX – X

Winter Break Week Feb. 15 – No Classes

Class 6: Tues., Feb. 22., Aristotle, Introduction and Politics, Bk. I

Class 7: Tues., March 1., Aristotle, Politics, Bk. III, Bk. IV and Bk. V

Class 8: Tues., March 8., Aristotle, Politics, Bk. VII and Bk. VIII

Class 9: Tues., March 15, Augustine, Political Writings, Bk. I, (chap. 1, 21,) Bk. II (chap. 4, 19, 21, 29) Bk. III (chap. 9, 10, 30) Bk. IV, (chap. 4, 27, 33) Bk.V, (chap. 9, 16 – 19), Bk VIII, (chap. 3, 6, 8, 10),

Class 10: Tues., March 22, Augustine Political Writings, Bk. X (chap. 3, 14), Bk. XI (chap. 16, 17, 26, 33) Bk. XII (chap. 1, 4, 6, 24, 28), Bk. XIII (chap. 2, 14) Bk XIV (chap. 5, 6, 11, 13, 25, 28), Bk. XV (chap. 2, 4, 22),

Class 11: Tues., March 29, Augustine, Political Writings, Bk. XVII (chap. 7, 13, 23) Bk. XVIII (chap. 2, 41, 54), Bk XIX (chap. 1, 2, 4, 7, 12 – 19, 24), Bk. XX (chap. 1, 2, 9, 11, 30), Bk. XXI (chap. 8, 16, 24), Bk. XXII (chap. 1, 6, 8, 29, 30)

Class 12: Tues., April., 5 Conclusion and Exam Review (Part 1)

Class 13: Tues. April 12., Conclusion and Exam Review (Part 2)

IX Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf

Academic Accommodations

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 obligation

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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic 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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is 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

Accommodation for Student Activities Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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).

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

Approval of final grades: 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 cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/>

or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.