

Carleton University
Fall 2019
Department of Political Science

PSCI 2301A
History of Political Thought I
Mondays, 4:05 pm – 5:55 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sophie Marcotte Chenard
Office: Loeb D690
Office Hours: Mondays 2pm – 3pm, or by appointment
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Contact Policy: The best way to contact me is via email. You can expect a reply within 48 hours (weekends excluded). Do not forget to include the course code in the subject line of the email. If your question cannot be answered by a short email, please stop by during office hours. If you are unable to come during my regular office hours, send me an email to set up an appointment or feel free to speak with me before or after class.

Course Description

This course examines foundational texts that have shaped Western political thought. Through a careful reading of the works of Greek poets, political philosophers and historians such as Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle and Thucydides, we will explore central themes and topics of classical political thought.

In the course of our investigation, we will address several fundamental questions such as: What is justice? Is legitimacy more important than power? What makes one a good citizen? Should we always obey the law? What visions of the just society do Plato and Aristotle put forth? How do they answer the question of the best political regime? What is the relationship between the individual and the political community? Through a close reading of the texts, we will also attempt to answer questions about the authors' intentions in writing what they wrote. How should we understand Plato's radical proposition of a new city the *Republic*? What can we learn about the nature of political reality from Thucydides' account of the war between the Peloponnesians and the Athenians? To answer these questions, we will examine the fundamental doctrines and principles of Greek political thought, with the aim of understanding what these texts can still teach us today. This course will also provide an overview of the historical context and political organization of the Greek cities in 4th century BC. We will focus not only on Plato and Aristotle's assessment of the different political regimes and their relative merits, but also on the political form *par excellence* in the Greek world, the *city*. What did it mean for the Greeks to live in a *polis* (in contrast with an empire)? What is the ultimate purpose of living in a political community?

Learning Objectives:

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

- Provide an elaborate account of the doctrines and key concepts used by political thinkers covered in the course (democracy, political regime, citizenship, justice) and draw parallels with our present-day use of these concepts
- Develop analytical reading and writing skills and master interpretive tools in reading past texts
- Acquire an in-depth knowledge of the historical and political context of the period covered
- Expose theoretical and political arguments and assess their strengths and weaknesses
- Articulate a clear, nuanced and rigorous interpretation of the political thinkers studied in the course (in the essays and in the final exam)

Required Texts (available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore)

- Plato, *The Republic* (Basic Books, 1991, 2nd or 3rd Edition, translated with notes and introduction by Allan Bloom) ISBN-978-0-465-D6934-7
- Aristotle, *The Politics* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1984, translated by Carnes Lord) ISBN 978-226-02669-5
- Other readings will be available directly on cuLearn

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

First Essay	20%	Due September 30th
Second Essay	30%	Due December 2nd
Final Examination	35%	TBD: Exam Period
Attendance/Participation	15%	

*Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis and to complete the assigned readings. Active participation in class is strongly encouraged.

Use of cuLearn: Course announcements, deadline reminders, course materials and resources (syllabus, mandatory readings, guidelines for the papers, essay questions, reflection questions in preparation for the discussions) will be posted on cuLearn. Please ensure that you have access to the course on cuLearn and consult it regularly.

Technology Policy: Computers are allowed during class, but I encourage you to turn off your electronic devices in the classroom. Several studies have demonstrated that taking notes by hand improve attention, memory and understanding. Please turn off your cell phone during class, as it cannot serve any other purpose than to distract you (you can send texts your friends about Greek political thought after class).

Other Regulations: No audio recording of the lectures is permitted without prior consent of the instructor. Lecture outlines will be posted on cuLearn after the lecture.

Tests & Examinations

Essays

You will be required to write one short essay (1500 words including footnotes) on Book I of *The Republic* (essay questions and guidelines will be posted on cuLearn) and one long comparative essay (2500 words including footnotes) that should be submitted **on the due date** as a **hard copy** at the beginning of the lecture (+ **electronic copy submitted on cuLearn**). Students will be given a choice of questions for each essay. The topics and details of each assignment will be distributed in class and posted on cuLearn.

- First essay: **Due *September 30th***
- Second essay: **Due *December 2nd***

Note: Essays submitted on the due date after the beginning of the lecture will be considered as late submissions (immediate penalty of 2%).

No outside sources or complementary readings allowed. The purpose of the essay is to demonstrate that you have read the texts carefully that you master the interpretive and analytical tools seen in class and that you are able to develop a nuanced and rigorous interpretation of the books.

How to Submit Essays

Essays should be submitted **on the due date** as a **hard copy** at the beginning of the lecture. You also have to submit an **electronic copy on cuLearn** before the beginning of the lecture. Only physical and electronic copies submitted through cuLearn will be accepted: no email submission. The essay should include a title page, page numbers and bibliography. All references should be indicated in footnotes. Along with your paper, you should also **submit a “checklist” form** that will be made available on cuLearn.

Late Penalties:

- **4% per day**, including weekends
- For example, a student who would have received a grade of 88%, but submitted her essay two days after the deadline will have a grade of 80%.
- Papers that have not been submitted **seven days after the deadline will not be accepted.**
- Extensions will be granted **upon presentation of medical certificate** or other appropriate document **only**. Medical certificates cannot be retroactive: if you are ill or have any other legitimate reason for not being able to submit your assignment on time, you need to come see me **before** the deadline. Since you have several weeks to complete the assignments, it is your responsibility to start early in the term.

- It is important to note that extensions **will not be granted** for computer-related problems or other personal reasons like participation in social events or vacation.
- Assignments and exams in other courses **are not sufficient grounds for an extension**. It is your responsibility as a student to respect the deadlines and plan your schedule accordingly.
- **Late submissions** should be uploaded on cuLearn; you should also leave a hard copy in the **Political Science drop box (Loeb B640)**.

These rules are enforced to ensure fairness among the students registered in the course.

Final Exam (35%): A comprehensive final exam is scheduled during the exam period and will cover all lectures and mandatory readings (**Exam Period: TBD**)

Tutorial Attendance/Participation (15%): Attendance and participation **in class and in the tutorials** are essential elements of this course. Through group discussions, the students will have the opportunity to ask questions about the readings, to further deepen their understanding of the texts and to critically engage with the arguments presented by the thinkers covered in the course. To get the full 15 points, students will be required to attend class and tutorials regularly, demonstrate that they have done the mandatory readings, prepare questions and contribute actively, positively and respectfully to the discussion with their classmates. Attendance in class and in the tutorials will be taken regularly.

Course Schedule

Sept 9: **Introduction**, Distribution and presentation of the syllabus

1. Sophocles' *Oedipus Cycle*

Sept 16: Sophocles, *Antigone* (Selections)
*Text available on cuLearn

2. Plato's *Republic*

Sept 23: Plato, *The Republic*, Book I

Sept 30: Plato, *The Republic*, Book II and Book III (Selections)
****First essay due as a hard copy and as electronic copy at the beginning of the class****

Oct 7: *The Republic*, Book IV-V
Guest Lecturer: Amanda Roberts (PhD Candidate, Carleton University)

Oct 14: *Holiday, University closed*

Oct 21: **Fall Break**

Oct 28: Plato, *The Republic*, Book VII (Allegory of the Cave) and Book VIII

3. Aristotle's *Politics*

Nov 4: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 10, Chap. 9

***Available on cuLearn**

Nov 11: Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book 1 (Chap. 1-2); Book 3 (Chap.1-4, 6-9); Book 4 (Chap. 1-2, 8) **(25 pp. in total)**

Nov 18: Aristotle, *The Politics*, Book 5 (Chap. 8-9); Book 6 (Chap. 1-5), Book 7 (Chap. 1-3, 13-15) **(33 pp. in total)**

4. Thucydides' *War of the Peloponnesians and the Athenians*

Nov 25: Thucydides, *The War of the Peloponnesians and the Athenians*, Book 1, 1-23; Book II (Pericles' Funeral Oration, pp. 108-117).

***Text available on cuLearn**

Dec 2: Thucydides, *The War of the Peloponnesians and the Athenians*, Book 5 (The Melian Dialogue, p. 378-385). ***Text available on cuLearn**

*****Second Essay due as a hard copy at the beginning of the class**.**

Dec 6: **Final Review (Friday follows a Monday schedule)**

Exam Period: **Final Examination (TBD)**

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 its 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).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

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. 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/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.