PSCI 2301 (B)  
History of Political Thought I  
Mondays, 1:35 pm – 3:25 pm  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sophie Marcotte Chenard  
Office: Loeb D690  
Office Hours: Mondays 11:35am-12:35pm, Tuesdays 11:35am-12:35pm, or by appointment  
Phone: (613) 520-2600 (Ext. 2577)  
Email: sophie.marcottechenard@carleton.ca

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 in classical political philosophy that have shaped Western political thought. Through a careful reading of the works of Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides and Augustine, we will investigate central themes and interrogations of ancient Greek and late Roman political philosophy such as the question of the best regime, the nature of justice and reason, visions of the good society, the virtues of the excellent man and the good citizen, the tension between the philosophic way of life and the political life, political order, and the question of the tasks of political philosophy as such. This course will also provide an overview of the political context and political organization of the Greek cities. 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 forms par excellence in the Greek world, the city (as contrasted with the empire, which we will study in more details in our inquiry into Augustine’s City of God).

In the course of our investigation, we will address several fundamental questions such as: What vision of the just society do Plato and Aristotle put forth? How do they answer the question of the best political regime? What does the ancient conception of virtue entail? What is the relationship between the individual and the political community? How should we understand Plato’s proposition in the Republic? What is the connection between Aristotle’s ethics and his writings on politics? What can we learn about politics from Thucydides’ account of the war of the Peloponnesians and the Athenians? What is the meaning of Augustine’s distinction between the “earthly city” and the city of God? To answer these questions, we will examine the fundamental doctrines and principles of classical political thought, with the aim of understanding what these foundational texts can still teach us today. This course is designed to provide a substantive overview of the major themes in classical political thought and an introduction to the works of the most important thinkers of that period.
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 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
- Demonstrate a 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 philosophers studied in the course (in the research papers and in the final exam)

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


Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due October 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Due December 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>TBD: Exam Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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*Students are expected to attend class and tutorials 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 research paper, essay questions) 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 to your friends about Greek political thought after class).

Tests & Examinations

Essays

You will be required to write one short essay (1500 words including footnotes) on Book I of The Republic (essay questions to be distributed in class) 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.

- First essay: Due October 16th
- Second essay: Due *December 4th, day of class*

Note: Essays submitted on the due date after the beginning of the lecture will be considered as late submissions (immediate penalty of 1 mark).

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. No outsides 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.

Late Penalties: 1 mark per day, including weekends (For example, a student who would have received a grade of 27/30, but submitted her essay two days after the deadline will have a grade of 25/30).

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 certificate cannot be retroactive: if you are ill or have any other legitimate reason for not being able to submit your assignment in time, you need to come see me before the deadline. It is important to note that extensions will not be granted for computer-related problems.

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 Participation: Participation to tutorials is mandatory. Tutorial attendance and participation are essential elements of this course. Through group discussions led by the TAs, 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 need to attend all tutorial sessions, demonstrate that they have done the mandatory readings, prepare questions and contribute actively, positively and respectfully to the discussion with their fellow classmates.

Participation and Attendance: It goes without saying that attendance to class is required. Active participation in class is encouraged; this includes raising questions related to the readings as well as questions about the issues discussed in class.
Course Schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 11): Introduction, Distribution and presentation of the syllabus
*No assigned reading

Week 2 (Sept. 18): Plato, The Republic, Book, I-II (and selections of III)

Week 3 (Sept. 25): Plato, The Republic, Book IV-V


Week 5 (Oct. 9): *Holiday, University closed*

Week 6 (Oct. 16): Plato, The Republic, Book VIII
First Essay Due

Week 7 (Oct. 23): *FALL BREAK* (No lecture)

Week 8 (Oct. 30): Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 10, Chap. 9 (posted on cuLearn),
Aristotle, The Politics, Book 1 (Chap. 1-7); Book 3 (Chap.1-4, 6-9); Book 4 (Chap. 1-2, 8, 11-12) (43 pp. in total)

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

Week 10 (Nov. 13): Thucydides, The War of the Peloponnesians and the Athenians, Book 1, 1-

Week 11 (Nov. 20): Augustine, The Political Writings, Book 1 (Preface; Chap. 1); Book II
(Chap. 21); Book IV (Chap. 4, 15, 33); Book V (Chap. 9, 16, 17, 19); Book VIII (Chap. 3, 8, 10); Book X (Chap. 14); Book, XI (Chap. 16, 26).

Week 12 (Nov. 27): Augustine, The Political Writings, Book XIV (Chap. 4, 6, 11, 25, 28);
Book XV (Chap. 4, 22); Book XVIII (Chap. 2, 41); Book XIX (Chap. 1-2);
Book XXII (Chap. 1, 6, 30).

Week 13 (Dec. 4): Review
Final Essay due as a hard copy at the beginning of the class.

Exam Period: Final Examination
Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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**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/](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.