

**REVISED VERSION**  
*(Please disregard previous course outline)*

**Carleton University**  
**Department of Political Science**

**Fall 2008 / Winter 2009**

**PSCI 2300 B**  
**History of Political Thought**  
Lectures: Friday 11:35 a.m. -1:25 p.m.

Professor Lee MacLean  
Office: Loeb D686  
Office Hours: Monday 12-1 p.m.; Wednesday 12-1 p.m.;  
Friday: 10:30-11:15 a.m. and 1:15-2 p.m.  
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Office tel.: 520-2600 ext. 4129.

This course is designed to offer students an introduction to the most important thinkers and questions in Western political thought. The Fall term provides an introduction to classic texts in Ancient Greek political philosophy. The themes we will study this term will include: justice, nature and convention, education, citizenship, gender, the family, economics, the best regime, the goals of political life, and the relation between political life and the contemplative life.

Objectives and Goals for the Fall term:

The primary goal of this part of the course is simply to familiarize the student with some of the most important texts of Ancient Greek political philosophy. A second goal is to help the student understand and practice the art of interpretation. The course is also designed to teach students the importance of careful reading. Another goal is to help students become clearer writers. The course aims to help students to refine their skills of argumentation and to practice critical thinking. Finally, in this course we aim to give the student the ability to describe in his or her own words how the teachings of Plato and Aristotle can foster reflection about present day political and ethical dilemmas.

N.B We will proceed by close textual and contextual study of classical philosophical texts. Our approach will be **theoretical**.

The Winter Term Professor will be Prof. Bruce Mabley (bmabley@connect.carleton.ca).

Prerequisite: second year standing

Class attendance and discussion group attendance are necessary for success in this course. Please read the assigned texts before class and bring the texts with you to class.

**Class Etiquette:** Each person who speaks in class should be given the floor; talking or whispering to other students while someone else is speaking is destructive of the quality of class deliberation.

**Books Required for Purchase (available at the Carleton University Bookstore):**

**Note:** Please be sure to buy the recommended translations.

Plato and Aristophanes, Four Texts on Socrates. Trans. Thomas West and Grace Starry West. Cornell, 1984.

Plato, The Republic of Plato. Trans. Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1991.

Aristotle. The Politics of Aristotle. Trans. Peter L. Phillips Simpson. University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

**Books Recommended for Purchase:**

Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics. Trans. Joe Sachs. Focus Publishing, 2002.

**Course Requirements:**

Participation	10%
*Short Paper, 5-7 double-spaced pages, Fri. Oct. 3	30%
True/False Quiz: Fri. Oct. 31	10 %
Fall term exam (during the formal exam period, Dec. 4 - 20)	50%

*\*As per early feedback guidelines, all efforts will be made to return papers submitted on-time by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.*

Essay: The required length is 5-7 double-spaced pages (with no more than 300 words per page). Essays should be submitted to Teaching Assistants at the beginning of your discussion group on Fri. Oct. 3. Please follow the Chicago Manual of Style. Your essay will be marked on the basis of criteria which include: clarity, organization, coherent justification, focus, provision of ample evidence and documentation, reflection on course readings and overall grasp of the topic under discussion. A one-page description of these criteria will be distributed when the paper topics are handed out. The same grading criteria (with some adjustments due to the difference of format) will be used for the exam. Our goal will be to return all essays that are passed in on time to students within three weeks of the date the essay is due.

Policy regarding late papers: A penalty of one half point per day will be imposed on all late papers not excused by a doctor's certificate. (i.e. A paper that is one day late and assigned an original grade of 21 / 30 will become 20.5 / 30). Unless you have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen, you can expect the penalty to be fairly and consistently applied.

Quiz: The quiz will consist of true or false questions based on statements that are contained in Plato's Republic. For the quiz, you will be responsible for the material in The Republic up to and including Book 7, i.e. Books 1-7. In very exceptional circumstances, a make-up quiz may be administered by the Teaching Assistants but only if students have documentation proving that serious unforeseen circumstances, such as illness or family affliction, have arisen. To discourage cheating, students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will be unable to write the quiz.

Fall Term Exam: You will be given five essay questions on the last day of classes. Two of these will appear on the exam and you must write on both. **Note:** The deferred exam will have a different format. Within the deferred exam, there will be two sections; each will contain a choice between two essay questions.

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**Winter Term Course Requirements (more details will be provided in January in a winter term syllabus):**

The evaluation will be based on the following:

Two in-class tests/exegesis	30%
Classroom participation	10%
15-18 page essay/exegesis	60%

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**Fall Term Schedule of Reading Assignments:**

- Fri. Sept. 5    Introduction
- Fri. Sept. 12    Plato, The Apology of Socrates
- Fri. Sept. 19    The Apology of Socrates, continued and  
Plato, The Republic, Book 1
- Fri. Sept. 26    The Republic, Book 1, continued and  
Book 2.

- Fri. Oct. 3     The Republic, Book 2, continued and  
Book 3. *Short papers due.*
- Fri. Oct. 10    University Day; All Carleton classes cancelled.
- Mon. Oct. 13   Thanksgiving; no University classes.
- Fri. Oct. 17    The Republic, Books 4 and 5
- Fri. Oct. 24    The Republic, Books 5 and 6
- Fri. Oct. 31    *True or False Quiz*;  
The Republic, Book 7
- Fri. Nov. 7     Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1  
(On Reserve).
- Fri. Nov.14     Aristotle, The Politics, Book 1
- Fri. Nov. 21    Aristotle, The Politics, Books 2 and 3
- Fri. Nov. 28    Aristotle, The Politics, Book 3, continued.  
Conclusion  
Exam Study Questions handed out.
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### **Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations, and March 6, 2009 for April examinations.**

**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](http://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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**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.

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with

100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.

**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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.