



PSCI 4809/5308

Concepts of Political Community I

Justice, Tyranny and The Common Good.

Plato's REPUBLIC, the classic search for the best form of government and the rejection of tyranny in favor of the philosophic life, emerged against the backdrop of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta (the first superpower conflict) and the moral and political crisis it sparked in history's first democracy. We will consider Thucydides' account of how the Athenian Empire rose from the Greek victory over the Persians, the emergence of Greek tragedy (as exemplified by Sophocles) and philosophy (the pre-Socratics and Sophists) as responses to the crisis of Athenian civilization as it grappled with the contradiction between self-government at home and imperialism abroad, and how Plato drew together all of these elements in the GORGIAS, SYMPOSIUM and REPUBLIC in his exploration of a regime based on justice and reason.

Instructor:	Professor Waller R. Newell
Schedule:	September to December 2015
Time:	Please consult Carleton Central