



*The debate of Socrates and Aspasia, Nicolas-André Monsiau, c. 1800.*

**PSCI 2301 A**  
**History of Political Thought I**  
**Fridays, 10:35–12:25**  
**This course will be held remotely online**

**Instructor:** Amanda Roberts

**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 10 am to 12 pm (or by appointment) via BigBlueButton on cuLearn

**Email:** [amanda.roberts@carleton.ca](mailto:amanda.roberts@carleton.ca)

### **Course Description**

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This course examines some of the foundational texts in the history of Western political thought. It is an introduction to the ideas, debates, and thinkers that have influenced key concepts in the field of political theory. Although the texts we will be reading this term originate in ancient Greece, they address questions and debates that are inescapable both throughout the history of political thought and in modern politics. These questions include: what is justice, and to whom do we owe it? What is politics? What is philosophy? What is a philosopher, and who qualifies as such? What is the ideal regime? What is democracy? What is citizenship, and who qualifies? What does it mean to live in a political community? What is the role of education in politics? And what is the role of the family in a political community? What is the relationship between them? What is justice? What is the best political community? Where do women and other minorities fit into a political community?

By examining how Thucydides, Sophocles, Herodotus, Plato, and Aristotle treat these themes and more, students will gain an understanding of the foundations for key concepts in political science more broadly, such as democracy, citizenship, justice, participation, and belonging.

### **Course Format**

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This course will be delivered online using **a mix of asynchronous/unscheduled sessions, and synchronous/scheduled sessions.**

**Lectures:** Lectures will be held asynchronously: each week, I will post a lesson module on cuLearn with a combination of pre-recorded video lectures to watch, accompanying PowerPoint slides, and learning activities (such as discussion forums and responses) to complete at your own pace throughout the week. The lecture/lesson module component of the course will be posted by

Friday afternoon of the previous week; you should aim to watch and complete the lecture/lesson module before your tutorial the following Friday.

**Tutorials:** Tutorials will be held synchronously at your tutorial's scheduled time (verify time on Carleton Central) via BigBlueButton. Tutorials will begin the second week of classes.

**cuLearn & Carleton Email:** Because this course will be delivered online, you are responsible for checking your Carleton Email account and cuLearn regularly (2—3 times per week minimum) for updates.

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours online via BigBlueButton (link on cuLearn) every **Thursday from 10am to 12pm**. Office hours are a time for students to meet with me to discuss any questions, or to get extra help or clarification. If my set office hours do not work for you, please do not hesitate to make an appointment and we will meet at a time that better suits your schedule.

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

- Read dense texts carefully and critically.
- Develop and defend their own interpretation of a primary source text without the use of secondary sources.
- Describe and differentiate between the philosophies and key concepts as used by each thinker the course covers (such as justice, democracy, education, family, ideal regimes, etc).
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of key arguments and debates in the history of political thought.

## **Required Texts (available for purchase at Carleton Bookstore)**

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Although these texts are available from many publishers and translators, I have selected these translations for maximum clarity and accessibility. Although any translation is acceptable, **I strongly recommend using these translations**. They are available at the Carleton Bookstore, who can ship them to you.

Plato, *The Republic* (Basic Books, 1991, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, trans. Allan Bloom)  
ISBN 0465069347 **OR** ISBN 0465094082

Aristotle, *The Politics* (Penguin Books, 1981, trans. T.A. Sinclair, revised by Trevor J. Saunders)  
ISBN 9780140444216

**\*\* Other readings will be available on cuLearn.**

## **Evaluation**

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Short Reflection Paper	15%	Due October 9, 2020
Final Essay	25%	Due December 4, 2020
Take-Home Exam	25%	TBD, formally scheduled
Lecture Activity Participation	15%	Weekly, marked for completion
Tutorial Participation	20%	Weekly, starting week 2

### **Short Reflection Paper (15%) – due October 9, 2020**

You will be asked to reflect on a passage excerpt from one of our readings. Using 750 words (min. 700 words, max. 800 words), your response should **argue for a particular interpretation**, covering *what* the passage says, *how* it is being said, and *why* it is significant. This is *not* a research essay, but a chance for us to hear what you think – please do not use sources outside of what is covered in the course. Passage options will be posted on cuLearn with more assignment instructions closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via cuLearn, and your grades and comments will be posted there as well.

### **Final Essay (25%) – due December 4, 2020**

You will be asked to write an essay on one of a series of essay topics/questions. Using 2000 words essay (min. 1900 words, max. 2100 words), your essay **must contain a thesis that argues for a particular position**. This is *not* a research essay, but an interpretative one – please do not use sources outside of what is covered in the course. Topic choices and additional instructions will be posted on cuLearn closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via cuLearn, and your grades and comments will be posted there as well.

### **Take-Home Exam (25%) – TBD, formally scheduled**

In a formally-scheduled take-home examination, you will be asked to answer a series of short answer questions – some of which will be comparative in nature – on the texts and themes covered in the course. More information, including due date and other instructions, will be posted on cuLearn.

### **Lecture Activity Participation (15%)**

Each week, I will post a lesson module consisting of a series of video lectures and activities to complete. The activities may vary week to week, and can include but are not limited to: mini quizzes, short written responses, and/or participation in forum discussions based on the week's assigned readings. In some cases, you may be required to complete one of these activities in

order to access the rest of the lesson content (video lectures, etc). These activities are meant to ensure that you are familiar with the material, and give me a sense of student strengths and

weaknesses, and which concepts I need to clarify. Each lecture activity will be graded based on completion (pass/fail) on a weekly basis.

### **Tutorial Participation (20%)**

Tutorial participation is an essential element of this course. Through synchronous group discussions (held via BigBlueButton – link on cuLearn), students will be given the opportunity to engage with the readings and lecture material critically, and learn from one another and their TAs. Students are expected to come to tutorials having completed the mandatory readings, prepare questions or comments, and contribute actively and respectfully to the discussion with their classmates. Attendance will be taken regularly.

### **Course Policies**

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**Privacy:** Students should not have the expectation of privacy when using cuLearn. As an instructor, I can see all of your activity on cuLearn – how often you sign into cuLearn, which documents you open, how long you spend on any page/activity/document, etc.

**Copyright:** My lectures and course materials (including all PowerPoint presentations, handouts, videos, and similar materials) are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of the intellectual property of all course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent.

**Carleton Email Accounts:** When communicating with your instructor and TAs, you **must** use your Carleton Email account. Please put the course code (PSCI 2301A) in the subject line of the email. You can expect a reply from me within 48 hours (excluding weekends).

**Questions:** Please reserve email for personal questions (questions regarding your specific situation). If you have a question about course content or logistics/administration, chances are your classmates may have the same question and may find my answer useful. Please use the “Ask Your Instructor” cuLearn discussion forum for these kinds of questions.

**Late Papers & Extensions:** Please contact me **as soon as possible** if you are experiencing a physical or mental health-related problem and require accommodations for coursework. Extensions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Late papers will be penalized by **4% per day including weekends** unless you have contacted me in advance with a legitimate reason for being late. Without an extension, late assignments will not be accepted more than **seven days** after the original deadline.

### **Course Schedule:**

Week 1 – September 11	Introduction <b>Required reading:</b> Course Outline
Week 2 – September 18	Thucydides’ <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> <b>Required reading:</b> Thucydides’ <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> (Excerpts – available on cuLearn) 2.34—46; 5.84—116
Week 3 – September 25	Sophocles’ <i>Antigone</i> <b>Required reading:</b> <i>Antigone</i> (Text available on cuLearn)
Week 4 – October 2	Women Intellectuals in Antiquity <b>Required reading:</b> Herodotus’ <i>Histories</i> ; Plato’s <i>Symposium</i> (Excerpts – available on cuLearn)
Week 5 – October 9	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> <b>Required reading:</b> <i>Republic</i> Book I <b>* Short Reflection Paper due – submit via cuLearn</b>
Week 6 – October 16	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> <b>Required reading:</b> <i>Republic</i> Book II
Week 7 – October 23	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> <b>Required reading:</b> <i>Republic</i> Book III & IV
October 26 – 30	Fall Reading Week – No class
Week 8 – November 6	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> V <b>Required reading:</b> <i>Republic</i> Book V
Week 9 – November 13	Plato’s <i>Republic</i> VII & VIII <b>Required reading:</b> <i>Republic</i> Book VII (514a–520a) & VIII
Week 10 – November 20	Aristotle’s <i>Politics</i> <b>Required reading:</b> Book I (Chapter i—ii, xii, xiii); Book II (Chapter ii, iv, ix); Book III (Chapter i—ii)
Week 11 – November 27	Aristotle’s <i>Politics</i> <b>Required reading:</b> Book III (Chapter vi—ix); Book IV (Chapter i—ii); Book VII (Chapter i—iii, xiii)
Week 12 – December 4	Conclusions & Review <b>*Final Essay due – submit via cuLearn</b>

### **Accommodations during COVID-19**

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](https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf)

### **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:** 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: <https://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: <https://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](mailto: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. Visit: [carleton.ca/pmc](http://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 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](http://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/wpcontent/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](http://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.

**Intellectual Property:** 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).

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

