

## History of Political Theory 1

<b>PS 3201-01</b>
Fall 2018
Political Science
Instructor: Dr. Chris Barker
Course time: Monday and Thursday 10:00-11:15 am Course location: Waleed C135
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Office hours: Monday 11:30-12:30pm and Thursday 3:30-5:30pm or by appointment Office location: HUSS, Room 2015
<b>Course Catalog Description</b>
Analysis of the thought of the major contributors, from Plato to the present. Fall semester (301): ancient and medieval political philosophy and the modern break with traditions. Spring semester (302): main currents of modern thought.
<b>Fall 2018 Course Overview</b>
This course is about the birth of political theory and of the science of politics amid a diversity of types of political regimes. The first part of the course examines a famous text by Plato in order to evaluate the philosophical criticism of existing and imperfect city-states (republics). Students then read Aristotle in order to examine the attempt to improve upon existing theory in a non-utopian, critical engagement with republics at the beginning of a period of empires. Students then read Roman thinkers who explain and defend the virtuous Roman republic as a type of regime superior to monarchies and to the burgeoning Roman empire. Students will use modern sources to read about the revolution that transformed Rome from a republic into an imperial monarchy. Combined with Medieval revealed religion, the development of monarchies constitutes a massive shift in political organization away from republicanism. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the diverse range of regimes theorized by pre-modern political thinkers.
<b>Course Outcomes</b>
At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify the unit of analysis of classical political theory</li><li>- Identify and explain the differences between the basic forms of political regimes</li><li>- Demonstrate familiarity with the major authors, concepts arguments in the pre-modern history of political thought</li><li>- Explain the birth of political science as a discipline, and explain political theory's contribution to that discipline</li><li>- Engage in persuasive analytical writing, as assessed through substantial, original papers on assigned topics in the history of political theory</li></ul>

## Course Goals

This course will develop the students' abilities to think critically and to read analytically in the core texts of the history of political thought.

**Prerequisites:** RHET 1010, RHET 1020, RHET 1100, RHET 2010, POLS 1001 or POLS 2003

## Course Grading Requirements:

Participation in classroom discussions: 15%, including occasional inverted classroom assignments. (A rough participation grade will be posted to Blackboard prior to the midterm. The \*final\* participation grade may improve or decrease depending on student performance in the second half of the course.)

Weekly reading quiz (4 points per quiz): 15%

Student midterm papers: 25% due in class on **Oct. 15**

Final seminar paper: 25% due in class on **Nov. 26**

Final exam: 20% (during exam week)

## Grading:

94%-100%-	A	"A" grades confirm exceptional, extraordinary effort and results
90%-93%-	A-	
87%-89%-	B+	"B" grades confirm effort exceeding average and high quality work.
84%-86%-	B	
80%-83%-	B-	
77%-79%-	C+	"C" grades confirm average and satisfactory work.
74%-76%-	C	
70%-73%-	C-	
65%-69%	D+	"D" grades confirm less than satisfactory effort and less than adequate work.
55%-65%	D	
55% and below	F	"F" grades confirm far less than sufficient effort and results or may be given in response to a violation of academic integrity.

## Schedule of topics and readings

The instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule of topics and readings if necessary

### Introduction

**Week 1 (Sept. 3 and 6):** Introduction: Greek freedom (Minogue, *Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, 10-18)

### Greece and the Ideal Republic:

**Week 2 (Sept. 10 and 13):** *The Republic*, I, 327a-334b; 334c-344c.

**Week 3 (Sept. 17 and 20):** *The Republic*, I, 344d - II, 367e; II, 368a - III, 417b; IV, 419a-445c.

**Week 4 (Sept. 24 and 27):** *The Republic*, V, 449a-471b; 471c-VI, 503b; VI, 503b-511e.

**Week 5 (Oct. 1 and 4):** *The Republic*, Books VII, 514a-521c, 540d-541b; Book VIII; *Republic*, Book IX on tyranny; Myth of Er, X, 614-621. (Please note that we may have to reschedule or hold an online class on Oct. 4, as I am traveling for a conference.)

**Greece and the Practicable Regime:**

**Week 6 (Oct. 8 and 11):** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I (excerpt); *Politics* I

**Week 7 (Oct. 15 and 18):** Aristotle, *Politics* III; *Politics* VII

**Rome and Republican Revolution:**

**Week 8 (Oct. 22 and 25):** Livy, *Early History of Rome*, Book II (short excerpt); Minogue, *Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, 19-24

Course drop deadline (undergraduate): Oct. 25

**Rome and the Mixed Republic:**

**Week 9 (Oct. 29 and Nov. 1):** Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*, Book I; the “eyeball test” (short excerpt, Philip Pettit, *On the People’s Terms*, 82-88)

**Week 10 (Nov. 5 and 8):** Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*, Book III (excerpts)

**Week 11 (Nov. 12 and 15):** Cicero, “Second Speech Against Catiline” (105-122), “On Behalf of Marcus Marcellus,” (278-92), and “Fourth Philippic Oration Against Antony” and “Ninth Philippic Oration Against Antony” (292-309) in *Ten Speeches*

**Post-Classical Medieval Christian Thinkers and the Turn to Monarchy and Empire**

**Week 12 (Nov. 19 and 22):** Augustine, *City of God* (excerpts); Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* (excerpts); Recommended: Minogue, *Politics*, 25-33.

**Week 13 (Nov. 26 and 29):** Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, Act I-III; Barry Strauss, *The Death of Caesar*, xv-xx, 67-106

**Week 14 (Dec. 3 and 6):** Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, Act IV-V

**Week 15 (Dec. 10):** Review and conclusion. Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny*, 72-80

**Required books (for purchase by students):**

1.

Author: Plato

Title: *The Republic*, translated Allan Bloom.

Publisher: Basic Books

Edition: 2nd edition (1991)

ISBN-10: 0465069347

2.

Author: Aristotle

Title: *Aristotle’s Politics*, ed. and translated Carnes Lorde

Publisher: University of Chicago Press

Edition: 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2013)

ISBN-10: 0226921840

3.

Author: Cicero

Title: *On the Commonwealth*, trans. George Holland Sabine and Stanley Barney Smith

Publisher: Macmillan Library of the Liberal Arts

Edition: Paperback (1929; reprint)

ISBN-10: 0024049808

4.

Author: Cicero

Title: Cicero's Ten Speeches, transl. James Zetzel

Publisher: Hackett Publishing

Edition: Paperback (2009)

ISBN-10: 087220989X

5.

Author: Barry Strauss

Title: The Death of Caesar: The Story of History's Most Famous Assassination

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Edition: Paperback (2015)

ISBN-10: 1451668813

6.

Author: Shakespeare

Title: Julius Caesar

Publisher: Simon & Schuster (Folger Shakespeare Library)

Edition: Updated edition (paperback, 2004)

ISBN-10: 0743482743

### **Assessment and Attendance policy**

#### **Electronic devices and Classroom Demeanor:**

The use of electronic devices such as cellphones and laptop computers is prohibited. There is a reason for this. (See Mueller and Oppenheimer, "The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking," *Psychological Science* 25 (2014): 1159–1168. In a nutshell, laptop note-takers "performed significantly worse on the conceptual questions" and wrote notes that had "more verbatim overlap with the lecture." The use of cellphones or laptops in class, or distracting or egregiously discourteous behavior, including arriving late, may result in a mark of absent for that class.

#### **Mid-Term and Final Essays:**

The midterm paper will be approximately 8-10 double-spaced pages (2500-3000 words) in length, and the final paper will be 10-12 pages (3000-3500 words) in length. Each paper will address one assigned question that will allow students to use their "toolbox" of concepts and theoretical approaches to an important theme in the history of political thought. You will be called upon to defend a thesis, and to support that thesis using evidence.

#### **Exam:**

The final exam will be cumulative. You will receive an overview of the structure of the exam one week before the exam. It will consist largely of essay questions, plus a section of passage-recognition and short answer questions. Make-up exams will be granted only

in the case of documented medical emergencies or comparable circumstances.

Attendance may be taken each class. Two weeks of unexcused absences will drop your final grade one full “letter.” If you have three weeks of unexcused absences, you have not completed the course and will receive a failing grade. Students will be informed of this status by email after the third week of absence. Written work that is due in class, or tests that are taken in class, cannot be made up or taken at a later date in the case of unexcused absences. For more information, please see the AUC attendance policy (<http://catalog.aucegypt.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=1333>).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

AUC seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure their equal access to all educational programs, activities and services, students with disabilities should notify the university, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If a student has a documented disability and wants to request special accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services (SDS) at extension 3918 or [sds@aucegypt.edu](mailto:sds@aucegypt.edu) (located in the Office of Wellbeing/Dean of Students). See: <http://in.aucegypt.edu/student-life/student-well-being/disability-services>

To be accepted, accommodation letters should be presented to the instructor in advance of any assignment or exam, preferably at the beginning of the semester.

AUC complies with the American Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and offers numerous facilities available to help you with your educational endeavors.

### **Policy on Academic integrity**

Academic integrity includes a commitment neither to engage in nor tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception. Prohibited acts include cheating or copying, plagiarizing, submitting another persons' work as one's own, using Internet or other sources without citation, fabricating field data or citations, stealing examinations, tampering with the academic work of another student, facilitating other students' acts of academic dishonesty, etc.

Plagiarism will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question. Cheating during an examination will result in a zero grade for this examination. Further action, according to university regulations, may also be implemented.

You should be aware that all written work might be submitted to “Turnitin.com,” the detection prevention software.

The University's statement on academic integrity, from which the above statement is drawn, is available online at:

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/integrity/Pages/default.aspx>