

History of Political Theory I

PS 3201-01
Spring 2019
Political Science
Instructor: Dr. Chris Barker
Course time: Wednesday and Sunday 10:00-11:15am
Course location: Waleed C149
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Office hours: Wednesday and Sunday 11:15am-11:30pm, 3:15-4:30pm or by appointment
Office location: HUSS, Room 2015
Course Catalog Description
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.
Spring 2019 Course Overview
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.
Course Outcomes
At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify the unit of analysis of classical political theory- Identify and explain the differences between the basic (Greek) political regimes- Demonstrate familiarity with the major authors, concepts, and arguments of the pre-modern history of political thought- Explain the birth of political science as a discipline, and explain political theory's contribution to that discipline- Engage in persuasive analytical writing, as assessed through substantial, original

papers on assigned topics in the history of political theory

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 (one student presentation = 5%).

Weekly pop quizzes and writing assignments: 15%

Student midterm papers: 25% due at the beginning of class on March 6

Final paper: 25% due at the beginning of class on May 5

Final exam: 20% (scheduled for May 23; see online schedule)

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. Holidays, travel days (which we need to make up), and other important days are marked below.

Introduction

Week 1 (Jan. 30 and Feb. 3): Introduction to the syllabus; introduction to Greek freedom (Minogue, *Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, 10-18)

Greece and the Ideal Republic:

Week 2 (Feb. 6 and 10): *The Republic*, I, 327a-334b; 334c-344c.

Week 3 (Feb. 13 and 17): *The Republic*, I, 344d - II, 367e; II, 368a - III, 417b; IV, 419a-445c.

Week 4 (Feb. 20 and 24): *The Republic*, V, 449a-471b; 471c-VI, 503b; VI, 503b-511e.

Week 5 (Feb 27 and March 3): *The Republic*, Books VII, 514a-521c, 540d-541b; Book VIII; *Republic*, Book IX on tyranny; Myth of Er, X, 614-621.

Greece and the Practicable Regime:

Week 6 (March 6 and 10): Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I (excerpt); *Politics* I; Sims, *Understanding Cairo*, 9-17. **First paper due at the beginning of class March 6**
March 10 student presentation: Cairo as a “city” (*Understanding Cairo*)

Week 7 (March 13 and 17): Travel to US

(Week 7 classes on Aristotle, *Politics* I and III will have to be rescheduled)

Student presentation: The university as polis (Danielle Allen, *Talking with Strangers*, short excerpt)

Rome and Republican Revolution:

Week 8 (March 20 and 24): Livy, *Early History of Rome*, end Book I and beginning Book II (short excerpt); Minogue, *Politics: A Very Short Introduction*, 19-24; Wednesday Workshop March 24: Popular revolution, then and now (reading tbd) and student presentation

Rome and the Mixed Republic:

Week 9 (March 27 and 31): Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*, Book I; Wednesday Workshop: domination (the “eyeball test” in short excerpt, Philip Pettit, *On the People’s Terms*, 82-88, and student presentation).

March 28: undergraduate course drop deadline

Week 10 (April 3 and 7): Barry Strauss, *The Death of Caesar*, xv-xx, 67-106; Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, excerpts/audio-visual

Week 11 (April 10 and 14): Cicero, “First and Second Speech Against Catiline,” “On Behalf of Marcus Marcellus”

Week 12 (April 17 and 21): Wednesday workshop: Rhetoric and emotions in politics (Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, Book I, excerpt, and student presentation on short excerpt, Danielle Allen, *Talking with Strangers*); **Spring Break no class (April 21)**

Week 13 (April 24 and 28): Spring Break no class

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

Week 14 (May 1 and 5): Holiday (May 1) J. Schneewind, *The Ethics of Autonomy*, excerpt. Recommended: Minogue, *Politics*, 25-33. **Second papers due at the beginning of class May 5**

Week 15 (May 8 and 12): Augustine, *City of God* (excerpts); Al-Farabi, *Political Regime* (excerpts);

Week 16 (May 15): Review and conclusion.

Scheduled Exam: Thursday, May 23, 2:30-4:30pm.

Required books (for purchase by students):

Title: *The Broadview Anthology of Social and Political Thought – Volume 1: From Plato to Nietzsche*

Edited by: Andrew Bailey; Samantha Brennan; Will Kymlicka; Jacob T. Levy; Alex Sager; Clark Wolf
Publication Date: March 6, 2008
ISBN: 9781551117423

The textbook must be purchased by all students and brought to class for use in class. Readings marked “excerpt” and “recommended” will be posted to Blackboard in advance of our class session by the course TA.

Participation

The participation grade recognizes contributions to classroom discussion by students. Prepared students who actively contribute to classroom discussion and debate by asking and answering questions will receive higher participation grades. 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. Students should prepare one presentation on an assigned reading per semester (5%).

Attendance policy

Attendance may be taken each class. If you have more than three weeks of unexcused absences, you have not completed the course requirements and will receive a failing grade. This is AUC policy and will be enforced in this class. 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>).

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. Students who arrive more than five minutes late to class may be denied entry to the classroom for that session.

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 address an important theme in the history of political thought. These are argumentative papers. Students will be called upon to defend a thesis and to support that thesis using evidence.

Exam:

The final exam will be cumulative. Students 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.

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 (located in the Office of Wellbeing/Dean of Students). See: <http://in.ausegypt.edu/student-life/student-well-being/disability-services>

To be accepted, accommodation letters should be presented to the instructor well in advance of any assignment or exam and/or at the beginning (first or second week) 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 person's 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 failing 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 will typically 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>