

Fall 1996

History of Western Political Thought/Political Theory I Syllabus

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HISTORY OF WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT/POLITICAL THEORY I

HIST/POLS 4313

Autumn 1996

Dr. Samson

Hardy 10 Office: MWF 8-10, MF 2-4; TR 9-9:30, 12-1, 2:30-3 Phone: 939-4551

DESCRIPTION

A study of western philosophy through the Enlightenment. The works of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, and others are examined and discussed.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for assigned readings and should keep a looseleaf notebook of class materials, including notes for discussion of readings. Suggested readings provide additional background.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Reading assignments should be completed before the class meets. Be prepared to discuss textbook material and readings. Each student will lead discussions of specific assigned and supplementary readings.
3. Regular attendance is required. Lengthy absences (four sessions or more) and erratic attendance will result in lower grades. Exams must be taken at the scheduled date and time.
4. Students will be tested on lectures, readings, and discussions through two short answer and essay exams. (40% apiece)
5. Each student will write a 5-7 page report (10%), typed and double-spaced, on a topic related to the the early history of western political thought. Do not use plastic covers or tabs. Due November 20.
6. Each student will write a 5-7 page book abstract (10%) or two 2-3 page journal article abstracts (5% apiece), typed and double-spaced. Due December 6.

READING

Textbooks

Cohen, Mitchell, and Nicole Fermon. Princeton Readings in Political Theory. [C]
 Wisner, James. Political Philosophy. [W]

Reserve Desk

Barnes, Jonathan, ed. The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle.
 Bloom, Allan. Giants and Dwarfs: Essays 1960-1990.
 Ebenstein, William. Great Political Thinkers. [E]
 Kagan, Donald. On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace.
 Notebook: Study Aids and Supplementary Readings (to be announced). [N]

Rushdoony, Rousas John The One and the Many. [R]
 Stone, I. F. The Trial of Socrates.
 Strauss, Leo, and Joseph Cropsey. History of Political Philosophy, 2nd ed. [S]
 White, Nicholas P. A Companion to Plato's Republic.

SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION (September 4-6)

Lecture and Discussion The Study of the Western Political Heritage
Reading N. (Notebook) Brown, "The Unbanable Book;" W. Preface; C. Introduction; R. 1; "The Study of Texts," in Bloom, Giants and Dwarfs

THUCYDIDES (September 9-11)

Lecture and Discussion The World of the *Polis*
 The Suicide of Greece
Reading C. 1 The Funeral Oration of Pericles
 N. Thucydides, "The Melian Debate;" Hadas, "The Art and Science of Thucydides."
 Suggested: Kagan on the Peloponnesian War

SOCRATES (September 13-16)

Lecture and Discussion The Trial and Death of Socrates
Reading C. 1 The Apology; W. 1 (pp. 3-13)
 Suggested: "The Political Philosopher in Democratic Society," in Bloom, Giants and Dwarfs; "Was There a Witch-hunt in Ancient Athens?" in Stone, The Trial of Socrates.

PLATO (September 18-27)

Lecture and Discussion Platonic Idealism
 Plato's Republic: Utopian, Tyrannical, or Pedagogical?
Reading C. 1 The Republic; W. 1 (pp. 13-29)
 Suggested: E. 1 (w/o text); N. Hall, "*The Republic* and the "Limits of Politics;" N. Bloom, "Response to Hall."

ARISTOTLE (September 30-October 4)

Lecture and Discussion Aristotle's Ethics and Politics
Reading C. 2; W. 2
 Suggested: Ambler article in Barnes, The Cambridge Companion.

POLYBIUS, CICERO, AND MARCUS AURELIUS (October 7-9)

- Lecture and Discussion** Hellenistic Philosophies
Roman Cosmopolitanism
- Reading** C. 4; W. 3; E. 5 II
Suggested: N. Nicgorski, "Cicero and the Rebirth of Political Philosophy."

AUGUSTINE AND THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS (October 11-16)

- Lecture and Discussion** St. Augustine and the Two Cities
Pope Gelasius and the Two Swords
- Reading** C. 5; W. 4; R. 2
Suggested: Speck, "Augustine's Tale of Two Cities;"
Niemeyer, "Augustine's Political Philosophy?"

MIDTERM EXAM: Friday, October 18

JOHN OF SALISBURY, THOMAS AQUINAS, AND SCHOLASTICISM (October 21-25)

- Lecture and Discussion** Western Christendom, Roman Law, and Civil Liberty
Investiture Controversy and Conciliar Theory
- Reading** E. 7; C. 6-7; W. 5
Suggested: Berman, Law and Revolution, "Introduction."

NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI (October 28-November 1)

- Lecture and Discussion** Modern Absolutism
Republicanism and the Modern Nation-State
- Reading** C. 8; W. 6
Suggested: S. Machiavelli

MARTIN LUTHER AND JOHN CALVIN (November 4-11)

- Lecture and Discussion** The Magisterial and Radical Reformations
French Civil War and the *Vindiciae*
Bodin and Althusius
- Reading** C. 9-10; W. 7; E. 12 III, 13
Suggested: R. 10

THOMAS HOBBES (November 13-20)

- Lecture and Discussion** Divine Right of Kings and the English Civil War
Radicals and Communists

Reading Modernism, Absolutism, and the Social Contract
C. 11; W. 8-9
Suggested: E. 14 (w/o text)

JOHN LOCKE (November 22-27)

Lecture and Discussion English Republicans
The Social Contract and the Liberal State
Reading C. 12; W. 10
Suggested: E. 15 (w/o text); R. 12

MONTESQUIEU AND THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT (December 2-4)

Lecture and Discussion Rationalism and the *Philosophes*
Reading E. 16

AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONALISM (December 6-11)

Lecture and Discussion To Be Announced
Reading To Be Announced

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 16, 8:30 AM

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barnes, Jonathan. Aristotle, 1982.
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Bloom, Allan. The Republic of Plato, 1968.
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Chadwick, Henry. Augustine, 1986.
Chappell, Vere, ed. The Cambridge Companion to Locke, 1994.
Clark, Gordon. Essays on Ethics and Politics, 1992.
Copleston, Frederick. A History of Philosophy, 9 vols.
Gilson, Etienne. The Christian Philosophy of St. Augustine, 1960.
Grazia, Sebastian de. Machiavelli in Hell, 1969.
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Lee, Francis Nigel. A Christian Introduction to the History of Philosophy, 1969.
Leff, Gordon. Medieval Thought: St. Augustine to Ockham, 1958.
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- Popper, Karl R. The Open Society and Its Enemies, 1962.
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- Rahe, Paul. John Locke's Philosophical Partisanship," Political Science Reviewer, 20 (Spring 1991): 1-43.
- _____. Republics Ancient and Modern, 1992.
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- Skinner, Quentin. Machiavelli, 1981.
- Stoner, James R., Jr. Common Law and Liberal Theory, 1992.
- Strauss, Leo. Natural Right and History, 1953.
- Tinder, Glenn. Political Thinking: The Perennial Questions, 6th ed., 1995.
- Toulmin, Stephen. Cosmopolis: The Hidden Agenda of Modernity, 1990.
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- Wiser, James. Political Theory: A Thematic Inquiry, 1986.
- Yolton, John W. A Locke Dictionary, 1993.