

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.  
Barr, Stringfellow. Voices That Endured, 1971.  
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Brown, Colin. Christianity and Western Thought, 1990.  
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.  
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Hamilton, Madison, Jay. The Federalist.  
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- Pocock, J. G. A. The Machiavellian Moment, 1975.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. Republics Ancient and Modern, 1992.
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- Schall, James V. "On the Place of Augustine in Political Philosophy," Political Science Reviewer, 23 (1994): 128-65.
- Sheldon, Garrett Ward. The History of Political Theory, 1988.
- 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.