

PSC 371-001 Classical Political Theory
Monday-Wednesday 11:30-12:45

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office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:45-2:15.

Course Description.

The goal of this course is to understand the meaning of the revolution in thought that began with Socratic political philosophy and the radical challenge that Socratic political philosophy poses to contemporary political thought. While studying works by Thucydides, Plato, and Aristotle we will examine fundamental political, moral, and theological questions, including which political society is best, what justice is, what virtue is, the place of religion in politics, and what it means to be an educated human being.

Course Objective.

The goal is not so much to learn about the authors whom we read in this course as to learn from them. Students should develop a better understanding of subjects such as justice, virtue, the relation between religion and politics, and liberal education. To that end, students should learn to read more carefully and to write and discuss more cogently.

Format

The course requires careful reading and regular attendance and participation in discussions.

Books Required for Purchase

Aristotle's *Politics*. Lord translation.
Four Texts on Socrates, West and West translation.
The Roots of Political Philosophy, Pangle editor.
Thucydides, the Landmark edition.

Grades

Grades will be based on one essay (20%), two mid-term exams (20%), a final exam (30%), and participation (10%). Attendance is required. Students who miss more than three classes without a valid excuse (e.g. medical or family emergency) will have their course grades reduced by half a grade.

Reading Schedule

Aug 25	Intro
Aug 27	Thucydides Book I. Sections 1-23 and 66-88.
Sep 1	Labor Day
Sept 3	Thucydides Book I Sections 139-146; Book II Sections 1-46.
Sept 8	Thucydides Book II Sections 47-65.
Sept 10	Thucydides Book III Sections 26-28, 36-50, 70, 82-86.
Sept 15	Thucydides Book V Sections 16, 17, 26, 43-46, 84-116.

Sept 17	Thucydides Book VI Sections 1-32.
Sept 22	Thucydides Book VI Sections 47-53, 60-61, 88-93. 95
Sept 24	In-class examination
Sept 29	Thucydides Book VII
Oct 1	Thucydides Book VIII Sections 1, 11, 12, 14-17, 26, 45, 53-72, 81, 82, 86, 97.
Oct 6	<i>Apology</i> 17a-28a
Oct 8	<i>Apology</i> 28b-42a.
Oct 13	<i>Alcibiades Major</i> 103-09
Oct 15	<i>Alcibiades Major</i> 109-114b .
Oct 20	<i>Alcibiades Major</i> 114b-118b . (Paper due)
Oct. 22	<i>Alcibiades Major</i> 118b-124b
Oct 27	<i>Alcibiades Major</i> 124b-127e
Oct 29	<i>Alcibiades Major</i> 128a-132c
Nov 3	In-class examination
Nov 5	<i>Politics</i> Book I, chapters 1-3.
Nov 10	<i>Politics</i> Book I, chapters 4-11.
Nov 12	<i>Politics</i> Book I, chapters 12-13
Nov 17	<i>Politics</i> Book III, chapters 1-5.
Nov 19	<i>Politics</i> Book III, chapters 6-11.
Nov 24	<i>Politics</i> Book III, chapters 12-18.
Nov 26	<i>Politics</i> Book IV, chapters 1, 2, 11 and Book VII chapters 1-3.
Dec 1	<i>Politics</i> Book VII, chapters 4-17.
Dec 3	<i>Politics</i> Book VIII

To help you with your reading, several short readings will be available through the library's e-reserve.

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If you use a computer to take notes in class, I reserve the right to require you to send me by e-mail (via your Rebelmail account) a copy of your notes within twelve hours of a particular class. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of the grade.

Use of any other electronic device in class, except with prior permission, is prohibited and will be considered a disruption of the class, with penalty.

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UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>