

**History of Political Thought I**  
**PolS 290**  
**Fall 2007**

**Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:00 and by appointment**

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### **Description**

What values form the basis of our political life together? How do they change over time? What responsibility does the individual have towards the larger community? Does personal integrity matter in political life? What is the relation between the personal and the political? These and other related questions have preoccupied political thinkers (subjects, citizens, rulers, artists, and philosophers) from antiquity to the present. Through close readings of major texts, this course will address significant approaches to these issues and the historical problems of imperial power, democratic responsibility, and personal participation. By considering the political themes presented in various works of history, drama, philosophy, statecraft, biography, and autobiography, we will begin to learn about the different ideas that structured political life in the ancient Greek and Roman world, many of which continue to preoccupy us today.

Attendance is required. Students are expected to do all assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions. All responsible contributions to discussion are welcome. Students are expected to do their own work; cheating will be punished. Grades will be calculated on the following basis: participation (10%); three in-class exams (20% each); one final exam (30%). Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services.

### **Texts**

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Viking Penguin  
Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*, trans. D. Parker, NAL Dutton  
Plato, *Republic*, trans. Grube, Hackett  
Aristotle, *Politics*, ed. S. Everson, Cambridge University Press  
Polybius, *Rise of the Roman Empire*, Viking Penguin  
Cicero, *The Republic and the Laws*, Oxford University Press  
Tacitus, *Empire and Emperors*, Cambridge University Press (packet)  
Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. H. Chadwick, Oxford University Press

All books are available through Women and Children first independent bookstore; other editions of these classic texts are widely available in used bookstores and libraries. The Tacitus reading will be available in a xerox packet.

## Syllabus

Aug. 28 (T)	Course Introduction
Aug. 30 (Th)	Thucydides Introduction: The Origin of Democracy
Sept. 4, 6 (T, Th)	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , Book 2
Sept. 11, 13 (T, Th)	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , Books 3,4
Sept. 18, 20 (T, Th)	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , Book 5, Review
Sept. 25 (T)	<b>First Exam</b>
Sept. 27 (Th)	Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i>
Oct. 2, 4 (T, Th)	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Books 1-7, 8-10
Oct. 9, 11	Plato; Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Books 1-2,
Oct. 16, 18 (T, Th)	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Books 1-2, 7-8
Oct. 23 (T)	Review
Oct. 25 (Th)	<b>Second Exam</b>
Oct. 30, Nov. 1 (T, Th)	Polybius, <i>Rise of the Roman Empire</i> , pp. 41-54, 302-352, 535-541
Nov. 6, 8 (T, Th)	Cicero, <i>The Republic and the Laws</i>
Nov. 13, 15 (T, Th)	Tacitus, <i>Empire and Emperors</i>
Nov. 20, 22 (T, Th)	<b>Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)</b>
Nov. 27, 29 (T, Th)	<b>Third Exam</b>
Nov. 29 (Th)	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i>
Dec. 4 (T)	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i>
Dec. 6 (Th)	Conclusion and Review

**Final Exam to be Scheduled during Exam Period**