

POLS 290 History of Political Thought I
Prof. Norma Claire Moruzzi
Fall 2014

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:00, 3:30-4:00, and by appointment

Course 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.

Requirements

Course materials will be presented through readings, lectures, and discussion. Students are expected to do all assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions. Attendance is required: more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade, since they will interfere with your ability to synthesize material presented in class and participate in class discussions. You are encouraged to consider the course material critically and with imagination; all responsible contributions to discussion are welcome. You are expected to behave with academic integrity: you can check the university policy on this at: <http://www.uic.edu/ucatalog/GR.shtml#qa>

Grades will be based on participation in class discussion, and written essay exams. 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. Please call 312/413-2103 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

Students must notify the instructor within the first ten days of the semester of the specific dates on which they are requesting an absence for religious observance.

Required Readings

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, *On Duties*, Cambridge University Press
 Tacitus, *Empire and Emperors*, Cambridge University Press
 Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. H. Chadwick, Oxford University Press

All books are available through the UIC bookstore; other editions of these classic texts are widely available in used bookstores and libraries. Although it is somewhat preferable for you to use the same edition as the class, if you already have another edition, you can use that and match your reading to the class with the internal paragraph numbering system most of these classical texts use.

Assigned readings should be done before class, so that you are prepared to participate in class discussion. Bring a copy of the assigned text to class with you; we will be working closely with the texts, and it is advisable to be able to refer to the specific selections in your own copy.

Syllabus

Aug. 26 (T)	Course Introduction
Aug. 28 (Th)	Thucydides Introduction: The Origin of Democracy
Sept. 2, 4 (T, Th)	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , Book 2
Sept. 9, 11 (T, Th)	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , Books 3,4
Sept. 16, 18 (T, Th)	Thucydides, <i>Peloponnesian War</i> , Book 5, Review
Sept. 23 (T)	First Exam
Sept. 25 (Th)	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Books 1-7
Sept. 30, Oct. 2 (T, Th)	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Books 8-10 and Aristophanes, <i>Lysistrata</i>
Oct. 7, 9 (T, Th)	Plato; Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Books 1-2
Oct. 14, 16 (T, Th)	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Books 1-2, 7-8
Oct. 21 (T)	Review
Oct. 23 (Th)	Second Exam
Oct. 28, 30 (T, Th)	Polybius, <i>Rise of the Roman Empire</i> , pp. 41-54, 302-352, 535-541
Nov. 4, 6 (T, Th)	Cicero, <i>On Duties</i>
Nov. 11, 13 (T, Th)	Tacitus, <i>Empire and Emperors</i>
Nov. 18 (T)	Review
Nov. 20 (Th)	Third Exam
Nov. 25 (T)	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i>
Nov. 27 (Th)	Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)
Dec. 2, 4 (T, Th)	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> and Review

Final Exam to be scheduled during Exam Period.