

Oxford College of Emory University
Pol. Sc. 301 Classical Political Thought
Syllabus

Seney Seminar Room (1st Fl.)
Tu, Th 11:30-12:15
Fall 2001
Prerequisite: Pols 101

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Language 202
Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M, W 9:30-11
T, Th 1-2
and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the thought of major figures of classical political philosophy. Students will study the roots of Western culture by reading selections from the works of Plato, Aristotle, and Cicero and writing brief analyses of what they read on a regular basis. They will also prepare a longer analytical paper in which they will be required compare and contrast the teachings of these three philosophers on an assigned topic. In addition, the students will be encouraged to critically analyze the political thought of these Greek and Roman philosophers during class discussions.

TEXTS:

Plato & Aristophanes: *FOUR TEXTS ON SOCRATES*, West & West, trans. (Cornell)
Plato: *THE REPUBLIC*, Bloom, trans. (Basic Books)
Aristotle: *THE POLITICS*, Lord, trans. (Chicago)
Cicero: *DE RE PUBLICA; DE LEGIBUS*, Keyes, trans. (Harvard)

Scott & Garrison: *THE POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT WRITER'S MANUAL* (Prentice-Hall)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course is designated as satisfying the sophomore writing requirement and is, therefore, writing intensive. During the semester each student will write and submit at least **ten** two-page summaries of assigned readings (There are a total of twelve writing assignments.). Students may submit all twelve assigned papers or only ten or eleven. Students should write summaries of all twelve reading assignments whether or not they submit all for a grade. Regardless of the number of summaries submitted, students may drop their three lowest grades on graded papers. These papers must be submitted at the beginning of the first regular class period listed for the assignment and will count for a total of 60% of the student's final grade. The scheduled due dates for these papers are **noted by asterisks on the class schedule below**. Students will also prepare a final paper of 10-15 pages due on **December 6, 2001**. At the scheduled time of our final exam, **9:00 a.m. on December 14, 2001**, students will be afforded the opportunity to write a response to my comments on their final paper, if they so desire. The final paper and response, if any, will count for 30% of the student's final grade (The response may raise the grade by up to ten points.). The remaining 10% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class discussion. The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive--no "extra credit" will be allowed.

MAKE-UP WORK:

An unexcused absence from any quiz, test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that quiz, test or examination.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are also expected to arrive for class on time. Students who are not in class are unable to participate in discussion and take quizzes. In addition, students who miss more than three classes will lose the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of his or her final grade.

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it (as described on pages 94-97 of the Catalog of Oxford College). When in doubt, ask first!

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. Unless otherwise notified in class (or noted on the outline), students should complete the reading assignments for each chapter by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. For the purposes of quizzes, students are expected to have completed all readings by the first day they are due.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on page 83 of the Catalog of Oxford College) will be used in determining grades for this class.

**THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY.**

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR POLS 301

Aug. 30:	Introduction
Sept. 4, 6:	Plato: <i>Apology of Socrates</i> ; [Aristophanes: <i>The Clouds</i>]
Sept. 11*, 13:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 1 & 2
Sept. 18*, 20:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 3 & 4
Sept. 25*, 27:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 5 & 6
Oct. 2*, 4:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 7 & 8
Oct. 9*, 11:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 9 & 10
Oct. 18:	Plato: <i>Crito</i>
[Oct. 16:	Fall Break. NO MEETING. Read Plato.]
Oct. 23*, 25:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 1 & 2
Oct. 30*; Nov. 1:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 3 & 4
Nov. 6*, 13:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 5 & 6
Nov. 15*, 20:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 7 & 8
[Nov. 22:	Thanksgiving Recess. NO CLASS. Read Cicero]
Nov. 27*:	Cicero: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 1 & 2
Nov. 29*:	Cicero: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 3 & 4
Dec. 4*:	Cicero: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 5 & 6
Dec. 6:	Cicero: <i>The Laws</i> . Selections to be announced in class.
Dec. 6:	Final Papers Due in Class!
Dec. 11:	Summary & Conclusions
Dec. 14	FINAL EXAMINATION (9:00-11:00)