

Political Science 301
Ancient Political Thought
Fall, 2006
Syllabus

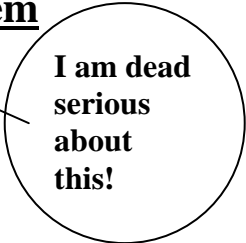
This course is an introduction to political philosophy through reading Plato and Aristotle, the greatest ancient political philosophers, and perhaps the greatest of all time. This course is introductory in the denotative meaning of that word; we are studying “the beginning.” Unlike to what you might be accustomed, “introductory” does not mean “easy” or “simplified.” In fact, it is precisely because the introduction or beginning of political thought is so far removed from us in time, concerns, and focus that it is difficult to understand. The assignments for this course are not terribly long, *but they are difficult*, mostly because you are required to reflect seriously upon a world that is quite alien to you. **The assignments will require repeated readings and it is crucial that you have read each assignment at least once by the first day it is due.** Failure to do so will make the lectures and discussions less than worthless and obviously would make your performance in the course as well as your final grade tenuous at best.

Your grade will be determined from a final paper (30%) and from class preparation (70%), which will be evaluated from papers. You will write a two-page summary of each assignment. **You must e-mail it me before class and hand in a hard copy in class.** If you are having “printer problems,” get the hard copy to me as soon as possible, but if you have not sent me the paper electronically it will be counted late. If you are not attending class that day you still must e-mail the paper before class and hand in a hard copy as soon as possible. You may drop the five lowest grades, but you must hand in papers for all assignments. The first paper, due on Sept. 1, is on “The Clouds.” On Sept. 27, two papers are due, one on Book VI and one on “Ecclesizusae.” Each assignment is somehow related to the previous one and you will find it difficult to do well if you do not keep up with the course as a whole.

Your final paper of 10-12 pages is due on December 8. Your paper will be returned to you, with comments and grade, at the regularly appointed time for your final exam during Finals week. You will be given one half hour to respond to those comments in writing if you wish, and then the final grade for your paper will be computed.

I do not count cuts nor do I count lateness, though I do track and record them. I am aware who is in my class on any given day (I consider this my legal obligation) but I evaluate your grade by your grades. Obviously however, if you are not in class you cannot hand summaries in when they are due, and summaries that are late will be penalized. This is in fairness to your colleagues who have handed theirs in on time. Nevertheless, such life decisions are for you to make and none of my business. On the other hand, *failure on your part to organize and plan does not constitute an emergency for me*. Plus/minus grading is used in this course, and the **Honor Code is always in force. Do not use secondary sources, including sources like “sparknotes.” I consider the use of them an honor violation in this course.**

E-mail is the preferred form of communication; you can contact me on learnlink. My office hours are by appointment. My phone is 4-8334. My home phone number is 770-786-9356; do not call before 6:00am or after 9:00pm. My office # is 307 Seney. **This syllabus and messages from me on the Political Science 301 conference are part of the course and you are responsible for the information contained therein.**



I am dead
serious
about
this!

Schedule of Classes

August 30:	Introduction
Sept. 1, 6, 8:	“Apology” and “Crito” and “The Clouds.”
Sept. 4:	No class (Labor Day)
Sept. 11, 13:	<u>Republic</u> , Book I
Sept. 15:	<u>Republic</u> , Book II
Sept. 18:	<u>Republic</u> , Book III
Sept. 20:	<u>Republic</u> , Book IV
Sept. 22, 25:	<u>Republic</u> , Book V
Sept. 27, 29:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VI; “Ecclesiastusae.” “Lysistrata” is recommended. If you read both, read “Lysistrata” <u>first</u> .
Oct. 2:	No Class (Yom Kippur)
Oct. 4, 6:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VII
Oct. 9:	No class (Fall Break)
Oct. 11:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VIII
Oct 13:	<u>Republic</u> , Book IX

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Oct. 16, 18:	<u>Republic</u> , Book X
Oct. 20:	No class (I am out of town)
Oct. 23, 25, 27:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book I
Oct. 30; Nov. 1, 3:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book II
Nov. 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book III
Nov. 20, 27, 29; Dec. 1, 4:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book VII
Dec. 6:	Review/Conclusion
Dec. 8:	Final Paper Due

There will be no classes on Oct. 2 (Yom Kippur); Oct. 9 (Fall Break); Oct. 20 (I am out of town); Nov. 22-24 (Thanksgiving recess). Your final class will be on Dec. 6. This means there will be no classes on Dec. 8 or 11; I need this time to evaluate your papers properly so that you can make a rational and informed decision at the final exam.