

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

Pierce 109
Tu, Th 10:00-11:15
Fall 2008
Prerequisite: Pols 101

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Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M, W 10-11:30
Th 1-3
& 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 Aristophanes, 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 the 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: *THE REPUBLIC; THE LAWS*, 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 **twelve** two-page reflective summaries of assigned readings. Students must write summaries of all twelve reading assignments in order to pass the course and receive a grade. Students may drop their two lowest grades on these 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 50% 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 6-10 pages due on **December 4, 2008**. At the scheduled time of our final exam, **2:00 p.m. on December 12, 2008**, 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 on the paper by up to ten points.). On class days when reflective summaries are not due not fewer than five unannounced quizzes will be given over the assigned readings. These unannounced quizzes will count for 10% of the student's final grade. 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.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES AND OTHER SOURCES OF CLASS DISTURBANCE

Cell phones, pagers, and beepers are not permitted in my classroom unless they are completely turned off! In the event that any personal communication device or other device causes a disturbance by making its presence known (audibly or otherwise), the possessor of the device may be asked to leave the room immediately.

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 103-106 of the 2008-2009 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 87-88 of the 2008-2009 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. 28:	Introduction
Sept. 2*:	Aristophanes: <i>The Clouds</i>
Sept. 4, 9:	Plato: <i>Apology of Socrates</i>
Sept. 11*, 16, 18:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 1 & 2
Sept. 23*; 25:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 3 & 4
Sept. 30*; Oct. 2 :	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 5 & 6
Oct. 7*, 9:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 7 & 8
[Oct. 14:	Fall Break. NO MEETING. Read Plato and Aristotle.]
Oct. 16*, 21:	Plato: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 9 & 10
Oct. 23:	Plato: <i>Crito</i>
Oct. 28, 30*:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 1 & 2
Nov. 4, 6*:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 3 & 4
Nov. 11, 13*:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 5 & 6
Nov. 18*, 20:	Aristotle: <i>Politics</i> , Books 7 & 8
[Nov. 21:	Thanksgiving Recess. NO CLASS. Read Aristotle and Cicero]
Nov. 24*:	Cicero: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 1 & 2
Dec. 2*:	Cicero: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 3 & 4
Dec. 4:	Cicero: <i>The Republic</i> , Books 5 & 6
Dec. 4:	Final Papers Due in Class!
Dec. 9:	Summary & Conclusions
Dec. 12:	FINAL EXAMINATION (2:00-5:00)