

**Political Science 301**  
**Ancient Political Thought**  
**Fall, 2010**  
**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 and quizzes. You will be able to write a two-page summary of most assignments (there are 17 graded assignments, 10 short papers, 6 quizzes, and a final paper). **You must e-mail the short papers to me before class or hand in a hard copy at the beginning of class.** If you are not attending class that day you must e-mail the paper before class. You may drop the six lowest grades, but since each assignment is somehow related to the previous one you would find it difficult to do well if you did not keep up with the course as a whole.

Your final paper of 10-12 pages is due on December 7. 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, and then the final grade for your paper will be computed.

You will need to be careful in regard to dates and assignments, so as not to miss one or be late simply because you did not monitor the situation well enough.

I do not count cuts nor do I count lateness, though I do 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. Of course, by sending them in electronically before class you have fulfilled your responsibilities and will not be penalized for lateness. Penalties for lateness are imposed in fairness to your colleagues who have handed their papers 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.**

**I AM  
COMPLETELY  
SERIOUS  
ABOUT THIS.**

E-Mail is preferred form of communication: [bshapir@emory.edu](mailto:bshapir@emory.edu).  
Appointments constitute my “office hours.” My phone is 4-8334. Office # is 303 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.**

**Schedule of Classes**

August 26:	Introduction
Aug. 31; Sept 2: <b>{Quiz on 31st}</b>	“Apology” and “Crito” and “The Clouds.”
Sept. 7: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book I
Sept. 9:	No Class
Sept. 14: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book I
Sept. 16: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book II
Sept. 21: <b>Quiz</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book III
Sept. 23: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book IV
Sept. 28, 30: <b>{Paper on 30th}</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book V
Oct. 5, 7: <b>Quiz</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book VI; “Ecclesiastusae” and “Lysistrata”. Read “Lysistrata” <u>first</u> .
Oct. 12:	No Class
Oct. 14: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book VII
Oct. 19: <b>Quiz</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book VIII

Pols. 301, Syllabus  
Fall, 2010  
Page 4.

Oct 21: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book IX
Oct. 26: <b>Quiz</b>	<u>Republic</u> , Book X
Oct. 28; Nov. 2: <b>Paper</b>	<u>The Politics</u> , Book I
Nov. 4, 9: <b>Paper</b>	<u>Politics</u> , Book II
Nov. 11, 16, 18: <b>Paper</b>	<u>The Politics</u> , Book III
Nov. 23, 30; Dec. 2: <b>Paper</b>	<u>The Politics</u> , Book VII
Dec. 7:	Review/Conclusion
Dec. 8:	Reading Day

**There will be no class Sept. 9 as I will be celebrating Rosh HaShana.  
There will be no class Oct. 12 (Fall Break).**