

Political Science 301
Ancient Political Thought
Fall, 1999
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 what you might be used to, “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 reading 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 examination (30%) and from class preparation (70%) which will be evaluated from quizzes or papers. You will have a quiz on all new assignments in The Republic and The Politics, or you will be able to write a two page summary of each assignment. (You can also do both and choose the higher grade). Fourteen quizzes will be offered, and ten of them will count. In other words, you may drop the four 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 is during finals week, unless you would rather hand in a paper on November 29. Information on this option is available upon your request. 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 here you cannot take quizzes, and it is dubious you will know what is going on for future quizzes. 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.

EMORY UNIVERSITY



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Schedule of Classes

August 25:	Introduction
Aug. 27, 30; Sept. 1, 3:	“Apology” and “Crito”
Sept. 8, 10:	<u>Republic</u> , Book I
Sept. 13:	<u>Republic</u> , Book II
Sept. 15:	<u>Republic</u> , Book III
Sept. 17:	<u>Republic</u> , Book IV
Sept. 20:	No Class
Sept. 22, 24:	<u>Republic</u> , Book V
Sept. 27, 29:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VI
Oct. 1, 4:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VII
Oct. 6:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VIII
Oct 11, 13:	<u>Republic</u> , Book IX
Oct. 15:	<u>Republic</u> , Book X
Oct. 18, 20, 22:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book I
Oct. 25, 27, 29:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book II
Nov. 1, 3 5, 8, 10, 12:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book III
Nov. 15, 17, 19, 22:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book VII
Nov. 29; Dec. 1, 3, 6:	Review/Conclusion