

Political Science 301
Ancient Political Thought
Fall, 2002
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 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 be able to write a two- page summary of each assignment. You may drop the five 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 6. 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.

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. 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.

E-Mail is preferred form of communication: bshapir@emory.edu. Appointments are the form of my “office hours.” My phone is 4-8334. 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.**

Schedule of Classes

August 28:	Introduction
August 30; Sept. 4, 6, 9:	“Apology” and “Crito” and “The Clouds.”
Sept. 11, 13:	<u>Republic</u> , Book I
Sept. 18:	<u>Republic</u> , Book II
Sept. 20:	<u>Republic</u> , Book III
Sept. 23:	<u>Republic</u> , Book IV
Sept. 25, 27:	<u>Republic</u> , Book V
Sept. 30; Oct. 2:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VI; “Ecclesiazusae.” “Lysistrata” is recommended. If you read both, read “Lysistrata” <u>first</u> .
Oct. 4, 7:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VII
Oct. 9:	<u>Republic</u> , Book VIII
Oct 11:	<u>Republic</u> , Book IX
Oct. 16, 18:	<u>Republic</u> , Book X
Oct. 21, 23, 25:	<u>The Politics</u> , Book I

Oct. 28, 30; Nov. 4:

The Politics, Book II

Nov. 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18:

The Politics, Book III

Schedule of Classes continued.

Nov. 20, 22, 25; Dec. 2, 4:

The Politics, Book VII

Dec. 6, 9:

Review/Conclusion

Dec. 11: Reading Day

**There will be no classes Sept. 16 (Yom Kippur); Oct.14 (Fall Break);
and Nov. 1 (Conference on campus).**