

Fall 2021
The Classical Quest for Justice
CTI 320: 30204 GOV 351C: 39840

MWF 11:00 pm – 11:50 pm

Professor Dana Stauffer
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Office Hours (online for now): Thursdays 10-1

TA: Jonathan Jiang

This course focuses on the great thinkers of classical Greek antiquity: Plato, Aristotle, and Thucydides among others. Our primary focus will be justice – what is it and how can human beings attain it? We will start with a consideration of two ancient Greek city-states, Athens and Sparta, and examine how they came into conflict with one another, and what we might learn about justice and human virtue from Thucydides' account of their conflict. After that, we will turn to Platonic political philosophy, examining Socrates' confrontation with one of the most famous intellectuals of his day, the sophist Protagoras. The *Protagoras* takes us into questions of civic virtue, courage, and wisdom. We will focus on Socrates' and Protagoras' disagreements about the nature of human virtue and the relationship of human virtue to the political community. Then we will read the first five books of the most famous ancient text on justice, Plato's *Republic*. Finally, we will close with an examination of Aristotle's treatment of justice in Book Three of the *Politics*.

Course Flags

Ethics: This course carries the Ethics flag. Ethics courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

Global Cultures: This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Required Texts

- Aristotle's *Politics*. Translated by Joe Sachs. (Focus Philosophical Library)
- *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*. (Free Press)

- “Protagoras” and “Meno” By Plato. Translated by Robert C. Bartlett. (Cornell)
- Plato’s *Republic*. Translated by Allan Bloom. (Basic Books)

A note on the textbooks

I strongly urge you to acquire the recommended editions of these texts, because the translation of these works varies considerably, and the ones listed above are of a very high quality. Having said that, all of these works are in the public domain, and you can get one version of them or the other for free. The cost of these books should NOT be a barrier to taking this class. Use free versions if you must.

Grading and Requirements

Early Response Question: 5%

Exam 1: 20%

Exam 2: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Attendance: 10%

Class Participation: 15%

I DO use plus and minus grades as follows: 92.5 and up = A, 89.5 and up = A-, 86.5 and up is a B+, and so on.

Early Response Question

I will post a brief response question September 10th. Answers will have a word limit of 500 words. You can submit your answer through Canvas. These responses will be graded from 1 to 5. The point of this assignment is to give you a rough sense of how you are doing early on in the course. It will be due September 17th.

Exams

Exams will be in-class essay exams. You will need to bring a blue book to each exam. I will give you at least 2 or 3 questions to choose from for each exam. Answers will be graded for clarity, accuracy, textual evidence, writing quality, depth, and originality of analysis.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a three-hour in-class cumulative exam. Its format will be similar to the midterms. There will be more than one essay question to choose from in each section of the exam. You will be tasked with comparing and contrasting various readings in the course, in addition to summarizing and interpreting specific texts.

Attendance

We will not begin taking attendance until September 17th. After that, if you have more than 5 unexcused absences in the class, your credit for attendance will begin to drop 1

point with each additional absence. If you are ill or miss class for religious reasons, that is considered an excused absence. Please send an email to the TA to let him know.

Class Participation and Online Discussion

Class participation will have two components: in-class and online. In general, you should come to class prepared to ask and answer questions about the reading. In addition, each week I will post discussion questions in Canvas. Answers to those questions will be due Thursdays at 8pm. (If you post between 8pm Thursday and 11AM Friday, I *might* see it, but I make no guarantees). To get full credit for class participation, you must post 5 times throughout the semester. You are welcome to post more than that. The posts do not have to be novel-length or incredibly profound. However, they should be well-thought, considered responses to the question. You can also raise a question yourself, or respond to somebody else's response. All posts must be civil and respectful, and they must be your own original thoughts.

In addition to our regular lecture sessions, be on the lookout for an announcement about supplemental, voluntary discussion sections led by our TA.

Technology Policy

With the exception of designated volunteer note takers, and/or those with a documented disability accommodation, the use of laptops, e-readers, tablets, or computers of any kind is prohibited in class. Cell phones must be silent and out of sight. I reserve the right to confiscate, for the duration of the class, any device that rings, dings, or otherwise makes a disturbance.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, and review sheets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Academic Honesty

In all of your work for this course, you are expected to know and to adhere to University of Texas policies regarding academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the course. Please familiarize yourself with the University honor code.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Notification of a need for disability accommodations must be given to the professor at least 14 days prior to a paper due date or exam.

Notice regarding accommodations for religious holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Course Schedule

Note: This course schedule is approximate. After each class, I will announce the official reading assignment for the next class via Canvas announcement.

August 25	Intro
August 27	Plutarch's <i>Life of Lycurgus</i> (online link)
August 30	<i>Lycurgus</i>
September 1	Thucydides, 1.66-88
September 3	Thucydides, 1.66-88 con't
September 8	Thucydides, 2.34-46 (Pericles' Funeral Oration)
September 10	Pericles con't; early response question posted
September 13	Thucydides, 5.84-116 (Melian Dialogue)
September 15	Melian Dialogue
September 17	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i> ; early response question due
September 20	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 22	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 24	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 27	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 29	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
October 1	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
October 4	Review

October 6	Exam
October 8	Plato, <i>Republic</i> I
October 11	<i>Republic</i> I
October 13	<i>Republic</i> I
October 15	<i>Republic</i> I
October 18	<i>Republic</i> I
October 20	<i>Republic</i> I
October 22	<i>Republic</i> II
October 25	<i>Republic</i> II
October 27	<i>Republic</i> III
October 29	<i>Republic</i> III
November 1	<i>Republic</i> IV
November 3	<i>Republic</i> IV
November 5	<i>Republic</i> V
November 8	<i>Republic</i> V
November 10	<i>Republic</i> V
November 12	<i>Republic</i> VII
November 15	Review
November 17	Exam
November 19	<i>Politics</i> I
November 22	<i>Politics</i> I
November 29	<i>Politics</i> III
December 1	<i>Politics</i> III
December 3	<i>Politics</i> III
December 6	Review

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 14th, 9AM-12PM