

GOV351C/CT320 The Classical Quest for Justice
Fall 2022

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:45

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Stauffer Office Hours: Fridays 9am-12pm

Course Description

This course focuses on the great thinkers of classical Greek antiquity: Plato, Aristotle, and Thucydides. Our primary focus will be justice – what is it and how can human beings attain it? We will start with a brief consideration of highlights from Thucydides' account of the conflict between two ancient Greek city-states, Athens and Sparta. 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)
- "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

2 Short Response Questions: 10 each%

Midterm 1: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Attendance: 10%

Class Participation: 10%

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.

Short Response Questions

I will post a short response question twice in the semester. Answers will have a word limit of 600 words. These responses will be graded from 1 to 10. The stakes are not too high on each assignment – each is worth 10%--but they give you a chance to check in, serving as indicators of how well you are absorbing the material. Due dates are on the schedule below. Answers will be submitted through Canvas.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will be an in-class essay. You will need to bring a blue book to the exam. I will give you at least 2 questions to choose from. You will not have the questions in advance; however, I will give you some idea in advance of what the questions will be about. There is no precise word range, given that you will be writing out answers in class, but your answer should be at least two pages, and will probably be more like 5 pages. Answers will be graded for clarity, accuracy, textual evidence, writing quality, depth, and originality of analysis.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a take-home essay exam. As with the mid-term essay, there will be more than one essay question to choose from. You may be asked to contrast various readings in the course, in addition to summarizing and interpreting specific texts. The

final exam will be submitted through Canvas. It will have word range of 1100-1500 words.

Attendance

Attendance is a significant portion of your grade in this course. The first two weeks of classes are considered a grace period. We will begin taking attendance in the third week of classes. 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, up to 10 points maximum. 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 her know.

Class Participation and Online Discussion

Class participation is a significant part of your grade in the course. 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. Class participation in lecture is encouraged; my lectures are pretty interactive. But since not everyone can participate in a live discussion with 75 students, the main way to gain class participation points is through online discussion posts. **The primary way to gain full credit for class participation is to post 5 times throughout the semester.**

How it works:

I post discussion questions, at least one per week, throughout the semester, in Canvas. Sometimes the questions will be about a topic we are about to cover, and sometimes they will be about what we have already covered. Some weeks, I will post more than one question.

If you post a response to a discussion post, you get 1 participation credit. You can get 1 credit per discussion thread. You are welcome to post more than that if you want.

What counts as a participation-credit-worthy response? It does not need to be novel-length or incredibly profound. People tend to write longer posts than they need to.

On the other hand, a credit-worthy post is more than a phrase or a sentence. "Yes" or "sometimes" is not a sufficient response.

Most important, posts should be well-thought-out, considered responses to the question. All posts must be civil and respectful, and they must be your own original thoughts. You can also raise a question yourself, or respond to somebody else's response.

When do discussion threads close? I generally leave them open for about a week. After that, I close them unless there is still a lot of activity. In general, if you are in doubt

about whether the post will close soon, err on the side of caution, and don't wait to post!

In addition to gaining class participation through online posts, you can gain credit through active, thoughtful participation in class discussion. If you consistently participate in in-class discussion, you can gain full credit for class participation for the semester. This is not something that you can do by suddenly participating a ton in the last week of class.

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 phone that is visibly in use.**

APPROXIMATE Course Schedule

The readings schedule is a rough estimate of when each of the readings will be covered. I will post a Canvas announcement after each class specifying the exact assignment for the next class. Those announcements will override the approximate schedule found here. **MAKE SURE TO SET YOUR NOTIFICATIONS IN CANVAS TO RECEIVE CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS. THOSE ARE MY PRIMARY METHOD OF COMMUNICATION.**

August 23	Intro
August 25	Thucydides, Intro & Congress at Sparta
August 30	Thucydides, Melian Dialogue
September 1	Thucydides, Melian Dialogue
September 6	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 8	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i> ; short response question #1 posted
September 13	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 15	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i> ; short response #1 due
September 20	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 22	Plato, <i>Protagoras</i>
September 27	Plato, <i>Republic I</i>
September 29	Catch up/Review
October 4	Midterm Exam

October 6	<i>Republic I</i>
October 11	<i>Republic I</i>
October 13	<i>Republic I</i>
October 18	<i>Republic II</i>
October 20	<i>Republic II</i>
October 25	<i>Republic III; short response #2 posted</i>
October 27	<i>Republic III</i>
November 1	<i>Republic IV</i>
November 3	<i>Republic IV; short response #2 due</i>
November 8	<i>Republic V</i>
November 10	<i>Republic V</i>
November 15	<i>Aristotle, Politics I</i>
November 17	<i>Politics I/III</i>
November 29	<i>Politics III</i>
December 1	<i>Politics III/IV; final exam questions posted</i>

Take Home Final Exam Due: Thursday, December 8th at 3:30pm

Emergency Procedures

*The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

*Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

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.

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.

Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/ domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's relevant policies (<https://titleix.utexas.edu/relevant-policies/>).

Beginning January 1, 2020, Texas Senate Bill 212 requires all employees of Texas universities, including faculty, report any information to the Title IX Office regarding

sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that is disclosed to them. Texas law requires that all employees who witness or receive any information of this type (including, but not limited to, writing assignments, class discussions, or one-on-one conversations) must be reported. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you would like to speak with someone who can provide support or remedies without making an official report to the university, please email advocate@austin.utexas.edu. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit <http://www.titleix.utexas.edu/>, contact the Title IX Office via email at titleix@austin.utexas.edu, or call 512-471-0419.

Although graduate teaching and research assistants are not subject to Texas Senate Bill 212, they are still mandatory reporters under Federal Title IX laws and are required to report a wide range of behaviors we refer to as sexual misconduct, including the types of sexual misconduct covered under Texas Senate Bill 212. The Title IX office has developed supportive ways to respond to a survivor and compiled campus resources to support survivors.

University Policies

**Academic Integrity*

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."

Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT. Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address:

<https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/standardsconduct.php>

**Q Drop Policy*

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see:

<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc/academic/adddrop/qdrop>