

- Course Information -

University: University of Nebraska at Omaha
College: Arts and Sciences
Curriculum: Political Science
Number: 4310
Type: Lecture
Title: Classical Political Theory
Short title: Classical Political Theory
Effective term: Fall 2014
Graduate non-degree students: Allowed
Can course be taken for credit multiple times? No

- Credit Hours Information -

Type: Fixed
Hours: 3

- Cross-listing and/or Dual-listing (UG/G) Information -

Courses: GR AS Political Science 8316

- Duplication Information (not to be used for cross/dual-listings) - Use in ALL instances where there is potential that a course overlaps in content with another discipline. This feature allows the relevant chair(s)/directors(s) to review and approve early in the review process. Please use if there is potential for perceived duplication.

Curriculum: Not applicable

- 1.0 Course Description Information -

1.1 Catalog description:

This course introduces students to key works representative of premodern political philosophy. Authors examined may include Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon, Cicero, Augustine, and Aquinas.

1.2 Prerequisites of the course:

Undergraduate: PSCI 2310 or junior standing or permission of instructor. Graduate: PSCI 2310 or equivalent is recommended.

1.3 Overview of content and purpose of the course:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the important thinkers and issues in classical political theory. The course may include treatments of such figures as Xenophon, Cicero, Augustine, and Aquinas, but it ordinarily focuses mostly on the two great works of Greek political thought, Plato's *Republic* and Aristotle's *Politics*. The first unit examines the best regime or the "city in speech" of Plato's *Republic*. The second unit considers Plato's critique of democracy and of tyranny and his defense of the philosophic life. The third unit considers Aristotle's account of the political community as natural. The fourth unit examines Aristotle's critique of Plato and other political theorists. The fifth unit examines Aristotle's account of the regime.

1.4 Unusual circumstances of the course:

Not applicable

- 2.0 Course Justification Information -

2.1 Anticipated audience / demand:

The course is intended as an elective for students with an interest in political philosophy. It also supports the Department of Political Science's concentration in Political Theory.

2.2 Indicate how often this course will be offered and the anticipated enrollment:

The course is ordinarily offered at least one time every two academic years and usually enrolls 30 students.

2.3 If it is a significant change to an existing course please explain why it is needed:

Not applicable

- 3.0 Objective Information -

Is this course part of or being proposed for the General Education curriculum?

No

3.1 List of performance objectives stated as student learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should: 1) understand Plato's presentation of the relationship of political philosophy to the political community, 2) know the competing views of justice found in the *Republic*, 3) understand the purposes of the *Republic's* exploration of the best regime or the "city in speech," 4) understand the most important institutions of the best regime and their functions, 5) grasp Plato's account of the parallel between the city and the soul, 6) understand Plato's argument for how politics tends to corrupt philosophy, 7) know Plato's view of how democracy comes into being, its character, and how it falls into tyranny, 8) understand Plato's criticism of tyranny and his defense of justice, 9) know Aristotle's argument that human beings are by nature political animals, 10) understand Aristotle's account of the household and the relationships within it, 11) know Aristotle's criticisms of Platonic communism, 12) understand Aristotle's definition of regime and his account of the various regime types, 13) know Aristotle's critique of the democratic and oligarchic claims to rule and his understand of the best claim to rule.

3.2 General Education Student Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, successful students shall be able to do the following:

- 4.0 Content and Organization Information -

4.1 List the major topics central to this course:

Major topics of the course include the following:

- The tension Between Political Philosophy and the Political Community
- The Competing Views of Justice in Plato's *Republic*
- Plato's Presentation of the Origins of the City or Polis
- The Education of the Guardians of the Best Regime
- The Classes of the Best Regime
- The Parallel Between the City and the Soul in the *Republic*
- Plato's Communism
- Equality of the Sexes in the *Republic*
- The Rule of Philosopher Kings in the *Republic*
- The Political Corruption of Philosophy in the *Republic*
- Plato's Critique of Democracy
- Plato's Critique of Tyranny and Defense of Philosophy
- Aristotle's Argument that the City is Natural
- Aristotle's Account of Slavery
- Aristotle's Account of the Household as an Element of the City
- Aristotle's Critique of Plato's Communism
- Aristotle's Definition of the Regime
- Aristotle's Account of Democracy and Oligarchy
- Aristotle's Account of the Best Regime

- 5.0 Teaching Methodology Information -

5.1 Methods:

The following pedagogical methods will be used: 1) lecture, as a means of conveying the issues and arguments in the works studied, 2) discussion, as a means of drawing out the implications of the reasoning in the works studied and bringing out the strengths and weakness of the philosophic arguments explored, 3) review and constructive criticism, by the instructor, of student examinations and papers.

5.2 Student role:

Students in this class will be expected to do the following: 1) Read all assignments prior to the class meeting in which they will be discussed, 2) come to class prepared to summarize the important points in the readings, to raise questions about them, to offer informed reflections on them, and to respond to their fellow-students' comments and to issues raised in lecture, 3) complete exams and written assignments that display their knowledge of the material in relation to the assigned paper-topic.

- 6.0 Evaluation Information -

Students should be provided the actual list of projects, basis for determining the final grade, and grading scale at the beginning of each course.

6.1.1 Describe the typical types of student projects that will be the basis for evaluating student performance:

Class participation: All students are expected to participate actively in class discuss and complete assigned readings prior to class. Occasionally, students may be quizzed on assigned readings.

Exams: Students will complete in-class examinations that may include essay, short answer, and objective questions

Papers: Students will complete short paper assignments in which they explain, for example, the arguments in a key case, the development of a constitutional doctrine, or the arguments surrounding the Court's decision to change its approach to a major issue

Graduate Student Writing Assignment: Graduate students will complete an additional writing assignment for the course. This may be an analytical review of some significant article or book in the secondary literature related to the course or a research paper on some issue related to the course

6.2 Describe the typical basis for determining the final grade (e.g., weighting of various student projects):

Undergraduate Students

- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Paper 1: 20%
- Paper 2: 20%
- Class Participation: 10%

Graduate Students

- Exam 1: 20%
- Exam 2: 20%
- Paper 1: 15%
- Paper 2: 15%
- Graduate Paper: 20%
- Class Participation: 10%

6.3 Grading type:

Letter grades

- 7.0 Resource Material Information -

7.1 Textbook(s) or other required readings used in course:

Aristotle. 1984. *The Politics*, translated by Carnes Lord. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Plato. 1991. *The Republic*, translated by Allan Bloom. New York: Basic Books.

7.2 Other student suggested reading materials:

7.3 Current bibliography and other resources:

Aristotle. 2002. *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by Christopher Rowe. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Augustine. 2001. *Political Writings*, edited by E.M. Atkins and R.J. Dodaro. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Augustine. 1998. *The City of God*, translated by R.W. Dyson. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Cicero. 2009. *The Republic and The Laws*, translated by Niall Rudd. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Cicero. 1991. *On Duties*, translated by M.T. Griffin. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Coleman, Janet. 2000. *A History of Political Thought: From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Deutsch, Kenneth and Joseph Fornieri, eds. 2008. *An Invitation to Political Thought*. Florence, KY: Wadsworth Publishing.
- Haddock, Bruce. 2008. *A History of Political Thought: From Antiquity to the Present*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.
- McClelland, J.S. 1998. *A History of Western Political Thought*. New York, New York: Routledge.
- Nelson, Brian R. 1995. *Western Political Thought, from Socrates to the Age of Ideology*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
- Nichols, Mary. 1992. *Citizens and Statesmen: A Study of Aristotle's Politics*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Morgan, Michael L., ed. 2006. *Classics of Moral and Political Theory*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.
- Plato. 1980. *The Laws*, translated by Thomas Pangle. New York: Basic Books.
- Rowe, Christopher, ed. 2006. *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Steinberger, Peter J. 2000. *Readings in Classical Political Thought*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing.
- Strauss, Leo. 1964. *The City and Man*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Strauss, Leo and Joseph Cropsey. 1963. *History of Political Philosophy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Tempest, Kathryn. 2011. *Cicero: Politics and Persuasion in Ancient Rome*. New York: Continuum.
- Xenophon. 1994. *Memorabilia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Zuckert, Catherine. 2009. *Plato's Philosophers: The Coherence of the Dialogues*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- 8.0 Other Information -

8.1 Accommodations statement:

Appropriate accommodations are provided for students who are registered with the Accessibility Services Center and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact Accessibility Services Center (MBSC 126, Phone: 402-554-2872, unodisability@unomaha.edu) or visit unomaha.edu/disability.

8.2 Other:

* 8.3 Author(s):

Carson Holloway