# Course Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>University of Nebraska at Omaha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>4310</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Classical Political Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short title</td>
<td>Classical Political Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective term</td>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate non-degree students</td>
<td>Allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can course be taken for credit multiple times?</td>
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# Credit Hours Information

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<tr>
<td>Type</td>
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<td>Hours</td>
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# Cross-listing and/or Dual-listing (UG/G) Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>GR AS Political Science 8316</td>
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# 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)/director(s) to review and approve early in the review process. Please use if there is potential for perceived duplication.

# 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 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:


7.2 Other student suggested reading materials:

7.3 Current bibliography and other resources:


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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