

POLS 187 - Ancient/Classical Political Theory

University of California, Santa Barbara, Winter 2018

Contact Information

Instructor: Caleb R. Miller

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Course Time: TR 9:30-10:45am

Office Hours: TR 11-12:30pm

Course Location: Phelps 2532

Office Location: Ellison 2813

Course Description

What does it mean to be a good citizen? How should the good citizen respond to turbulent or tyrannical political circumstances? Does the good citizen have a duty to participate in politics? Does the good citizen require friends? Is political life possible in private? During the era known as Classical Antiquity in the West, a roughly thousand year period that began with the Greco-Persian wars and ended with the fall of Rome, a host of thinkers living in the Mediterranean -- including philosophers, statesmen, slaves, and theologians -- sought to answer these questions and others in order to better orient themselves in relation to their unique political contexts. Through engaging with the attempts by Plato, Aristotle, Cicero and others to make sense of the Greek *polis*, the tumultuous shift from republic to empire in Rome, and the later shock of the Roman empire's collapse, as well as a number of their contemporary interlocutors (i.e., Oakeshott, MacIntyre, Arendt, and Foucault), this course will attempt to complicate our conceptions of both citizenship and political activity.

Students must complete POLS 1: Introduction to Political Theory (or an equivalent) prior to enrolling. In order to do well, students must regularly attend lecture and keep up with all readings.

Additionally, students are asked to download the free Socrative Student app for their laptop, tablet, or phone for use in class. This software allows students to easily submit short answers to discussion questions posed at the start of class and will be used for attendance purposes. If students are unable to use this app, they can opt to hand write and physically submit their short answers in class.

Course Objectives

- Critically read and interpret canonical works in classical political thought, as well as contemporary commentaries on those works
- Cogently discuss these works with attention to their themes and contexts and in relation to one another

- Write tightly argued, coherent, well-supported essays pertaining to the themes and works addressed in the course

Required Texts

- Aristotle - *The Nicomachean Ethics* (Penguin)
- Aristotle - *The Politics* (Penguin)
- Plato - *Gorgias* (Penguin)
- Cicero - *The Republic* (Oxford)
- Cicero - *On Duties* (Oxford)
- Epictetus - *The Discourses* (Everyman)

All other readings will be made available on Gauchospace.

Assignments and Grading

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| 25% | In-Class Quizzes |
| 20% | Paper 1 |
| 25% | Paper 2 |
| 30% | Paper 3 |

In-Class Quizzes: At the beginning of each lecture, students will be given three minutes to respond to two multiple choice questions related to the day's reading using the Socratic app. Students with excused absences may make up missed quizzes within one week during office hours; students with unexcused absences will receive a zero on that day's quiz. At the end of the quarter, the quiz scores will be curved to the second highest score.

Papers: Three 4 page (maximum) double-spaced paper, 1" margins, addressing a question relevant to the course. These papers will be used to assess the students' ability to make strong, concise, conceptual arguments through reference to the text. Paper topics will be made available roughly 10 days in advance of due date. Chicago style citations (as endnotes) and title page are required. Papers will be graded according to a rubric found on the course Gauchospace page; students are asked to attach a rubric to each paper they turn in.

Additionally, it is recommended that students meet with a writing lab fellow prior to turning in their first papers. Appointments can be made through the MyCLAS system or at the CLAS office, SRB 3210.

Finally, plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such. If any students are caught plagiarizing, the case will be turned over to the Office of Judicial Affairs. Any

student unclear about what may constitute plagiarism can turn to the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity on the Judicial Affairs website.

Course Schedule

Week 1

- Tuesday, January 16th — Introduction
- Thursday, January 18th — Oakeshott's *Lectures in the History of Political Thought*, ch. II-V

Week 2

- Tuesday, January 23rd — Thucydides' "Pericles Funeral Oration" & Plato's "Apology of Socrates"
- Thursday, January 25 — Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, ch. 1-8, 13; Book II, ch. 1, 5-9; Book III, ch. 1-5; Book V, ch. 1-6; Book VIII, ch. 1-3, 9-11; Book IX, ch. 6, 9; & Book X, ch. 6-9

Week 3

- Tuesday, January 30th — MacIntyre's *After Virtue*, ch. 12, 14, & 15
- Thursday, February 1st — Aristotle's *Politics*, Book I, ch. 1-10; Book III, ch. 1-13; Book IV, ch. 11-13; & Book VII, ch. 1, 2

Week 4

- Tuesday, February 6th — Arendt's *The Human Condition*, Ch. V, Sec. 24-8 & Fustel de Coulanges' *The Ancient City* (selections) **PAPER 1 DUE**
- Thursday, February 8th — Plato's *Gorgias*, pp. 3-63

Week 5

- Tuesday, February 13th — Plato's *Gorgias*, pp. 64-138
- Thursday, February 15th — Oakeshott's *Lectures in the History of Political Thought*, ch. XI-XV

Week 6

- Tuesday, February 20th — Polybius's *The Histories*, Book XI & Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*, Book I, ch. 1-7
- Thursday, February 22nd — Machiavelli's *Discourses on Livy*, Book I, ch. 11-14 & Book III, ch. 1; Arendt's "What is Authority?"

Week 7

- Tuesday, February 27th — Cicero's *The Republic*, Books I-III, VI **PAPER 2 DUE**
- Thursday, March 1st — Cicero's *On Duties*, Books I-II

Week 8

- Tuesday, March 6th — Cicero's *On Duties*, Book III
- Thursday, March 8th — Foucault's *The Care of the Self*, Parts II-III

Week 9

- Tuesday, March 13th — Epictetus's *The Discourses*, Book I & Book IV, ch. 1, 4
- Thursday, March 15th — Seneca's "On the Private Life" & Tacitus's *Agricola* (selections)

Finals Week

- Tuesday, March 20th — **PAPER 3 DUE at 11am to Prof. Mailbox**

Other Services

Campus Learning Assistance Service (CLAS): helps students increase their mastery of course material through course-specific tutoring and academic skills development, including a Writing Lab. Visit their website: www.clas.ucsb.edu. Sign up for services at their website or main office, Student Resource Building, Room 3210, Monday- Friday 9am to 5 pm. 805.893.3269

Counseling & Career Services: offers counseling for personal & career concerns, self-help information and connections to off-campus mental health resources. 805.893.4411

Student Health Social Services: provides a range of services to help students identify and overcome obstacles to academic performance stemming from financial, medical, emotional, social, or family situations. 805.893.3380

Disabled Students Program (DSP): provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities. Please inform the professor if you require special classroom accommodations due to a disability. You must register with DSP prior to receiving these accommodations, and you must re-register each quarter. 805.893.2668