Ohio State University
Political Science 4411
Ancient & Medieval Political Thought
11:10-12:30 WF   Fall 2014
Eric MacGilvray

Office hours: W 1:00-2:00 or by appt.   macgilvray.2@osu.edu
2026 Derby Hall   292-3710

Overview

This course will focus on a number of foundational texts in western political thought; texts that come to us from ancient Athens, republican and imperial Rome, the Christian middle ages, and the Italian Renaissance. Although they were written in times and places that are as different from each other as they are from our own, these works deal with a set of themes that remain central in modern political life, including the nature of political wisdom, the struggle between civic virtue and self-interest, and the relationship between politics and religion.

Readings

The following books are required and should be available for purchase at the OSU bookstores:

Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, Regan translation (Hackett)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Mansfield translation (Chicago)

Plato, *Republic*, Grube translation (Hackett)

C. D. C. Reeve, ed., *The Trials of Socrates* (Hackett)

In addition, a number of required readings have been placed on e-reserve through Carmen.

Requirements

(1) Two papers on assigned topics, 5-6 pages each (c. 1,500-1,800 words):

- 1st paper due at noon on Monday, October 13   [33%]
- 2nd paper due at noon on Monday, November 17   [33%]

(2) In-class final examination on Thursday, December 11 from 12:00-1:45. The exam will cover all of the course material in short-answer format, and is worth 33% of the final grade. We will hold a review session during the last scheduled class.

(3) Careful reading preparation and active class participation are expected. Grades will be adjusted up or down by as much as one-third of a grade on this basis.

Policies and procedures

Academic honesty: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc.

Late work: Each student will be granted ONE extension this term on a paper of your choice, no questions asked, which entitles you to hand it in any time before class on Friday following the due date with no penalty. There is no need to tell me in advance that you are taking the extension, and no other extensions will be granted. Late essays will be penalized one full grade. Essays will not be accepted more than one week after the extension date without my approval.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu.

Schedule

August 27	Thucydides, "Funeral Oration of Pericles"	[e-reserve]
	Xenophon, "The Politeia of the Spartans"	
August 29	NO CLASS	
September 3	Aristophanes, *Clouds* (*Trials of Socrates*, pp. 89-176)	
September 5	Plato, *Apology of Socrates* (*Trials of Socrates*, pp. 26-61)	
September 10	Plato, *Crito*; *Phaedo* death scene (*Trials of Socrates*, pp. 62-83)	
	Xenophon, *Socrates' Defense to the Jury* (*Trials of Socrates*, pp. 178-84)	
September 12	Plato, *Republic*, book 1, entire (Grube pp. 1-31)	
September 17	Plato, *Republic*, book 2, entire (Grube pp. 32-59)	
September 19	Plato, *Republic*, book 3, 412b-417b	
	book 4, 423d-445e	
	(Grube pp. 88-93, 99-121)	
September 24	Plato, *Republic*, book 5, entire	
	(Grube pp. 122-156)	
September 26	Plato, *Republic*, book 6, 484a-497d; 504a-511e	
	book 7, 514a-521c; 532a-541b	
	(Grube pp. 157-71; 177-193; 204-212)	
October 1	Plato, *Republic*, book 8, entire (Grube pp. 213-240)	
October 3	Plato, *Republic*, book 9, entire	
	book 10, 608c-621d	
	(Grube pp. 241-263, 279-292)	
October 8	Aristotle, *Politics*, book 1, chaps. 1-7, 13	[e-reserve]
October 10	Aristotle, *Politics*, book 3, chaps. 1, 4-5, 7-13, 18	[e-reserve]
October 13 (Mon)	FIRST PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm	
October 15	Aristotle, *Politics*, book 4, chaps. 1-2, 8-9, 11	[e-reserve]
	book 5, chaps. 1, 8-9	
October 17	NO CLASS	
October 22	Aristotle, *Politics*, book 7, chaps. 1-3, 13-15	[e-reserve]
	book 8, chaps. 1-3	

| October 24 | Polybius, *The Rise of the Roman Empire*, book 6, selections | [e-reserve] |
| | Cicero, *On the Commonwealth*, selections | |

October 29   *Matthew* 5:38-48, 22:15-22; *Romans* 13:1-7; *1 Peter* 2:13-17   [e-reserve]
Augustine, *City of God*, book 2, chaps. 19-21
book 4, chaps. 3-4
book 5, chaps. 17-21, 24
book 19, chaps. 21, 24

October 31   Augustine, *Retractions*, book 2, chap. 43   [e-reserve]
Augustine, *City of God*, book 1, preface, chaps. 1, 8-11, 29, 35
book 11, chaps. 1, 21-22, 24-28

November 5   *Genesis* 1:1-4:17   [e-reserve]
Augustine, *City of God*, book 14, chaps. 1-2, 4, 6, 10-15, 27-28
book 15, chaps. 1, 4

November 7   Augustine, *City of God*, book 19, chaps. 4-20, 25-28   [e-reserve]

November 12   Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, Questions 90-93

November 14   Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, Questions 94-97

November 17 (Mon)   SECOND PAPER DUE, 12:00 pm

November 19   Machiavelli, *The Prince*, dedicatory letter, chaps. 1-11

November 21   Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chaps. 12-26

December 3   Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, selections   [e-reserve]

December 5   Review

December 11 (Thurs)   FINAL EXAM, 12:00 - 1:45 pm