

Claremont Graduate University
Department of Politics and Policy

PP 450: MAJOR WORKS IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Ms. Sharon N. Snowiss

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Office hours: MW 4:30-5:30 PM; Thurs. 2:30-4; and by appointment

This is an introductory course to major works in political philosophy. It focuses primarily on the Western or European Tradition and is organized historically. Class discussions will focus on themes such as nature, justice, equality, and freedom that emerge from the primary texts. However, political philosophy proceeds as a dialogue in which thinkers continually debate their predecessors. We will engage in that debate.

The course will be conducted as a seminar. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. This course provides an extensive overview of the major texts. Selections will be assigned from most of the longer texts below. For discussion purposes it is useful to have the text for reference.

Three short reflective papers (7-10 pages) and a final examination are required to complete the course. There is no expectation of any research beyond the class readings.

The required texts (available at Huntley Book Store) are as follows:

If you have other editions, you may use them for this course. Many of these texts can also be found on line.

Bible Old and New Testaments
Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching
Confucius, The Analects trans. A. Waley
Plato, Apology and Crito
Plato, The Republic
Aristotle, The Politics
Cicero, On the Commonwealth
Epictetus, The Enchiridion
Augustine, Political Writings of St. Augustine
Aquinas, Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas
Machiavelli, The Prince and the Discourses
Hobbes, Leviathan
Descartes, Discourse on Method and Meditations
Locke, Two Treatises on Government
Rousseau, Social Contract and Discourses
Hegel, Philosophy of Right
Tucker, (ed), The Marx-Engels Reader
J.S. Mill, On Liberty and Utilitarianism
Nietzsche, Use and Abuse of History
Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents
Arendt, Between Past and Future

Recommended Readings

The following are additional primary as well as secondary sources that you might find useful. These texts are for your reference only.

Plato, Laws
Epistles
Phaedrus
Polybius, The Histories
Tacitus, The Histories
Machiavelli, Mandragola
Rousseau, Politics and the Arts
Leo Strauss, What Is Political Philosophy?
Sabine, A History of Political Theory
S. Wolin, Politics and Vision
Hart and Downton, Perspectives on Political Philosophy, Vol. I & II
McDonald, Western Political Theory
Kitto, The Greeks
Barker, Political Thought, Plato and Aristotle
G. E. Wright and R. H. Fuller, The Books of the Acts of God
Cochrane, Christianity and Classical Culture
Fustel de Coulanges, The Ancient City
Conford, Before and After Socrates
Susan Okin, Women in Western Political Thought
Arlene Saxonhouse, Women in the History of Political Thought
Bluestone, Women and the Ideal State
Wm. Connolly, Political Theory and Modernity
Jacobson, Pride and Solace
W. T. Jones, A History of Western Philosophy, Vols. I-V
F. Dallmayr, Border Crossings, Toward a Comparative Political Theory

Journals of interest:

Political Theory
History of Political Thought
Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy
Praxis International
Hypatia

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will gain an understanding of major philosophical works of the western tradition.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the historical debates and dialogues within

the western tradition of political philosophy.

3. Students will reflect on key concepts such as virtue, justice, freedom and equality, within the texts read and be able to compare those concepts across different authors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to weekly readings and participation in discussions, students will be asked to write three reflective papers (about 7 pages each) and to write a final examination. From time to time short (1 page) position papers may be assigned to help facilitate discussion.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class must seek permission for an excused absence from the course director or teaching assistant. Unapproved absences or late attendance for three or more classes may result in a lower grade or an “incomplete” for the course. If a student has to miss a class, he or she should arrange to get notes from a fellow student and is strongly encouraged to meet with the teaching assistant to obtain the missed material. Missed extra-credit quizzes and papers will not be available for re-taking.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will give you guidance. Exams must be completed independently. Any collaboration on answers to exams, unless expressly permitted, may result in an automatic failing grade and possible expulsion from the Program.

Grading

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Description	Learning Outcome
A	4.0	Complete mastery of course material and additional insight beyond course material	Insightful
B	3.0	Complete mastery of course material	Proficient
C	2.0	Gaps in mastery of the course material; not at level expected by the program	Developing
U	0.0	Unsatisfactory	Ineffective

Each of the papers will be worth 20%; the final examination, 25% and participation 15% of the final grade.

Important Dates:

October 19 First paper due.

November 2 Second paper due.

November 26 Third paper due.

December 18 Final examination due.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Sept. 4

Introduction

What Is Political Philosophy?

Please read the following selections which are on Sakai for the 1st class.

Leo Strauss, "What Is Political Philosophy"

Sheldon Wolin, "Political Theory as a Vocation" in APSR, Dec. 1969.

Heraclitus, Fragments

Moira Gatens, "Feminism, Philosophy & Riddles Without Answers" in Feminist Challenges, eds. Pateman & Gross.

Bernal, Martin, "Introduction" from Black Athena.

Jaspers, Karl, "The Axial Period," The Origin and Goal of History

Hwa & Yol Jung, "Postmodernity, Eurocentrism and the Future of Political Philosophy" from Fred Dallmayr, ed., Border Crossings, Toward a Comparative Political Theory

Recommend:

Political Theory. Special issue on What is Political Theory?

Vol 30, No. 4, August 2002

Especially see:

G. Kateb, "The Adequacy of the Canon"

W. Brown, "At the Edge:"

The Emergence of Political Philosophy**The Judaic Tradition**

Sept. 11

The Bible, Old Testament

Genesis (1-27), Exodus (1-35), Deuteronomy 1-9, 12, 29-34; Judges 13, 1Samuel 1-18; 2 Samuel 11-12, 1 Kings 12-14, Isaiah 1-6, 21, 38, 44-45, Jeremiah 1-12, 21-23.

Recommend:

Bible, Books I-V

A. Wildavsky, "What Is Permissible so that This People May Survive? Joseph the Administrator" 1989 John Gaus

Lecture published in PS, Dec. 1989.

M. Buber, "Plato and Isaiah" in Buber's Israel and the World, (1948).

Voegelin, Israel and Revelation

E. Pagels, Adam, Eve and the Serpent.

P. Day (ed.), Gender and Difference in Ancient Israel.

Chinese Political Thought

Sept. 18 Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching, Books I, II
Confucius, The Analects (selections)

Recommend:

Hsiao and Mote, A History of Chinese Political Thought

Wm. T. De Bary, ed., Sources of Chinese Traditions, vol. 1

H.G. Creel, Confucius and the Chinese Way

Chenyang Li, The Tao Encounters the West, Explorations in Comparative Philosophy

Greek Political Thought

Sept. 25- Aristophanes, The Clouds, (selections on Sakai)
Oct. 2 Plato, The Apology and Crito
Plato, Republic
Epistles, 7th and 8th Letters (Sakai)

Recommend:

Plato, The Laws

Gregory Vlastos, Plato II, a Collection of Critical Essays

Gregory Vlastos, Socrates Ironist & Moral Philosopher

S. Okin, Part I "Plato" in Women in Western Political Thought

N. Bluestone, Women and the Ideal Society

A. Saxonhouse, Women in the History of Political Thought, chp. 2 & 3.

E. Keuls, The Reign of the Phallus, Sexual Politics in Ancient Athens

Leo Strauss, The City and Man

Oct. 9-16 Aristotle, The Politics

Recommend:

Barker, The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle

Various chapters on Aristotle in Okin, Saxonhouse, Wolin, Strauss and Cropsey, etc. See list of secondary sources.
Brown, Wendy "Ancient Greece. Arendt and Aristotle" in Manhood and Politics, A Feminist Reading of Political Theory

Oct. 19 **1st Paper Due**

The Roman Empire

Oct. 23 Cicero, On the Commonwealth
Epictetus, The Enchiridion

Recommend:

Tacitus, The Histories
Marcus Aurelius, Meditations
Polybius, The Histories
Letters of Pliny The Younger and The Emperor Trajan

Christianity and Philosophy: The Synthesis

Oct. 30 The Bible: New Testament
The Gospel According to John
Acts of the Apostles (selections)
Letters of Paul to:
 Romans
 1st Corinthians
Augustine, The Political Writings of St. Augustine (selections)
Aquinas, Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas (selections)

Recommend:

Cochrane, Christianity and Classical Culture
M. Warner, Alone of All Her Sex
H. Arendt, Love in St. Augustine

Nov. 2 **2nd Paper Due**

NEW PATHS: POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND PHILANTHROPY

Nov. 6 Machiavelli, The Prince and the Discourses (selections)
Descartes, The Discourse on Method and Meditations

Recommend:

N. Machiavelli, Mandragola
H. Pitkin, Fortune Is a Woman
S. DeGrazia, Machiavelli in Hell
M. Fleisher (ed.), Machiavelli and the Nature of Political Thought
W. Doney (ed.), Descartes A Collection of Critical Essays
J. Pocock, The Machiavellian Moment

Christine de Pizan, The Book of the City of Ladies
 Erica Horth, Cartesian Women

Social Contract

Nov. 13-20 Hobbes, Leviathan (selections)
 Locke, 2nd Treatise on Government (selections)
 Rousseau, 1st and 2nd Discourses
 The Social Contract (selections)
 Pateman, The Sexual Contract (selections, Sakai)
 Mill, On Liberty and Utilitarianism

Recommend:

Locke, Letter Concerning Toleration
 Ashcraft, Revolutionary Politics and Locke's Two Treatises of Government
 Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman
 Jacobson, Pride and Solace
 Rawls, Theory of Justice
 Hirshman, The Passion and the Interests
 Macpherson, Possessive Individualism
 K. Minogue, The Liberal Mind
 Wolff, Marcuse and Moore, A Critique of Pure Tolerance
 Mill, On the Subjection of Women

Nov. 26 **3rd Paper Due**

History and Dialectic

Nov. 27-Dec. 4 Hegel, Philosophy of Right (selections)
 Marx, Basic Writings on Political Philosophy

Recommend:

Kaufman, Hegel's Political Philosophy
 C. Taylor, Hegel and Modern Society
 K. Lowith, From Hegel to Nietzsche
 Tucker, Philosophy and Myth in K. Marx
 Meszaros, Marx's Theory of Alienation
 Ollman, Alienation
 Avineri, Marx's Socialism
 M. Jay, Marxism and Totality
 Balbus, Marxism and Domination
 S. Firestone, The Dialectic of Sex
 B. Weinbaum, The Curious Courtship of Women's Liberation and Socialism
 A. Ferguson, Sexual Democracy

Revolt, Revision and Critique

December 11 Nietzsche, Use and Abuse of History
Freud, Civilization and the Discontents
Arendt, Between Past and Future (selections)

Recommend:

Kierkegaard, The Present Age
Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil
Arendt, The Human Condition
Marcuse, Eros and Civilization

Final Examination Due December 18