

Claremont Graduate University
Department of Politics and Policy

PP 450: MAJOR WORKS IN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

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Office hours: MW 4:15-5:30 PM; Tues. 4:30-5:30 and by appointment

This is an introductory course to major works in political philosophy. It focuses primarily on the Western 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:

Bible Old and New Testaments
Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching
Confucius, The Analects trans. A. Waley
Plato, Apology and Crito
Plato, The Republic
Aristophanes, The Clouds in Four Plays by Aristophanes
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
Pateman, The Sexual Contract

Several additional primary as well as secondary sources have been placed on reserve at Honnold Library. 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

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Sept. 1

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. 8

The Bible, Old Testament

Genesis (1-27), Exodus (1-35), Deuteronomy 1-9, 12, 29-34; Judges 13, 1 Samuel 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. 15 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. 22-29 Aristophanes, The Clouds
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. 6-13 Aristotle, The Politics

Recommend:

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

Oct. 16 **1st Paper Due**

The Roman Empire

Oct. 20 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. 27 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

Oct. 30 **2nd Paper Due**

NEW PATHS: POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND PHILANTHROPY

Nov. 3 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. 10-17 Hobbes, Leviathan (selections)
 Locke, 2nd Treatise on Government (selections)
 Rousseau, 1st and 2nd Discourses
 The Social Contract (selections)
 Pateman, The Sexual Contract (selections)
 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. 20 **3rd Paper Due**

History and Dialectic

Nov. 24-Dec. 1 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 8 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 15