

PS 361 – Classical Political Thought; on-campus: Winter 2019

Dr. Philipp Kneis; philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu

UNIT 1: POLITEIA – GREEK POLITICAL THOUGHT

- ❖ ***Assignment 1 (ongoing): Discussion Board (10 points for 10 longer posts, continuous participation). Post to the discussion board during the relevant week when you can, I allow for maximum flexibility.***
- ❖ ***Assignment 2: Present one Text of your choice in the week the text is assigned (5 points)***

Week 1: *The World of Antiquity – Pre-Socratics: Greek Society, Religion, & Politics from Homer to Plato.*

Week 2: *Plato: Introductions to Plato's political philosophy, and discussion of key issues.*

Week 3: *Aristotle: Introductions to Aristotle's political philosophy, and discussion of key issues.*

UNIT 2: RES PUBLICA – ROMAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Week 4: *The Roman Republic and Early Roman Empire: Roman Society, Religion, & Politics till Augustus.*

Week 5: *The Roman Empire in Late Antiquity. Marcus Aurelius and Augustine.*

- ❖ ***Assignment 3: Response Essay "Did Rome Fall?" due Monday of Week 5, by 8 PM PT; via e-mail to philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu (10 pts.)***

UNIT 3: THE CITY OF GOD – MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

Week 6: *The Transformation of the Ancient World. The Fall of Rome. Augustine, continued. Aquinas.*

Week 7: *Political Rule and Utopia in the Early Middle Ages. Dante and Machiavelli.*

UNIT 4: REFLECTION AND STUDENT RESEARCH

Week 8: *The Legacy of Classical Political Thought. Continuities between Classical and Modern Theory.*

Week 9: ❖ ***Assignment 4: Research Presentations (10 points)***

Present your own research anytime this week on-line; Continue with the discussion

Week 10: *Own Research for Paper (Dead Week)*

Write your paper, Continue with the discussion

Week 11: *Submit Your Paper (Finals Week):*

- ❖ ***Assignment 5: Final Research Paper on Topic of your Choice, Based on your Research Presentation. Due Wednesday of Finals Week, by 8 PM PT via Canvas and e-mail to philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu (15 points)***

Total Points: 50

Detailed Schedule as follows.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: POLITEIA – GREEK POLITICAL THOUGHT

"The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." -- L. P. Hartley, *The Go-Betweens*, 1953. 1.

Ongoing Assignments:

- ❖ ***Assignment 1 (ongoing): Discussion Board (10 points for 10 longer posts, continuous participation is ideal). Post to the discussion board during the relevant week when you can; I allow for maximum flexibility.***
- ❖ ***Assignment 2: Present one Text of your choice in the week the text is assigned (5 points)***

Week 1: The World of Antiquity – Pre-Socratics	January 7-13
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Materials:

- Audio Lecture 0: Major Themes of the Seminar
- Audio Lecture 1: The Ancient World
- Powerpoint: The European Space from Antiquity to the Middle Ages. Historical Overview

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What is a *polis*?
- What is a "state" in antiquity?
- What is "political"?
- What is the function of *mythos*/myth? Is myth true or false? What is *logos*?

Monday

Introduction

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 1.2 Hammer, Dean. "The Politics of the 'Iliad.'" *The Classical Journal* 94:1 (Oct-Nov 1998). 1-30.
- 1.3 Rahe, Paul A. "The Primacy of Politics in Classical Greece." *The American Historical Review* 89:2 (Apr. 1984): 265-293.
- 1.4 Balot, R. "Democracy and political philosophy: Influences, tensions, rapprochements." In: Arnason, Johann P., Kurt A. Raaflaub, and Peter Wagner, eds. *The Greek Polis and the Invention of Democracy: A Politico-cultural transformation and its interpretations. Vol. 25.* John Wiley & Sons, 2013. 181-204.

Other Texts of Interest:

- 1.1 Poehlmann, Egert. "Homer, Mycenae and Troy: Problems and aspects." *Archaeology and Heinrich Schliemann. A century after his death. Assessments and prospects. Myth-history-science* (2012): 357-364.
- 1.5 Segal, Charles. "'The Myth Was Saved': Reflections on Homer and the Mythology of Plato's Republic." *Hermes* 106.H. 2 (1978): 315-336.

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 2: Athenian History and Plato

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- How are politics and religion separated in antiquity?
- Why does Socrates have to die?
- What is the function of the guardians?
- What is the purpose of the noble lie?
- How do Plato's *Politeia* / *Republic* about an ideal state or about an ideal soul?

Monday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 2.2 McPherran, Mark L. "Platonic religion." *A Companion to Plato* (2006): 244-259.
- 2.3 Gerson, Lloyd P. Gerson. "What is Platonism?" *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 43:3 (2005): 253-276.

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 2.4 Charbit, Yves. "The Platonic City: History and Utopia." *Population* 2.57 (2002): 207-35.
- 2.5 Excerpts from Plato's *Republic*
- 2.6 Plato, *Apology of Socrates* (Comic Version)

Other Texts of Interests (not mandatory):

- 2.1 Kraut, Richard, "Plato", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2015 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), forthcoming URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2015/entries/plato/>>

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 3: Athenian History and Aristotle

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What is *politics*?
- What does it mean to say that humans are political animals (*zôoi politikoi*)?
- How does Greek political thought differ from Roman political thought, as far as you know already?
- What key controversies can you identify in the legacy of Aristotle's thought?

Monday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 3.2 Keyt, David. "Three Fundamental Theorems in Aristotle's "Politics"." *Phronesis* (1987): 54-79.
- 3.3 Bates Jr, Clifford Angell. "The centrality of politeia for Aristotle's Politics: Aristotle's continuing significance for social and political science." *Social Science Information* 53.1 (2014): 139-159.

- 3.4 Bates Jr, Clifford Angell. "The centrality of politeia for Aristotle's Politics: Part II—the marginalization of Aristotle's politeia in modern political thought." *Social Science Information* 53.4 (2014): 500-517.

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 3.5 Mulgan, Richard. "Aristotle and the value of political participation." *Political Theory* 18.2 (1990): 195-215.
- 3.6 Ambler, Wayne. "Aristotle on nature and politics: The case of slavery." *Political Theory* 15.3 (1987): 390-410.

Other Texts of Interests (not mandatory):

- 3.1 Miller, Fred, "Aristotle's Political Theory", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2012 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2012/entries/aristotle-politics/>.

UNIT 2: RES PUBLICA – ROMAN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Week 4: The Roman Republic and Early Roman Empire

January 28-February 3

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 4: The Roman Republic and Early Roman Empire

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What are the consequence of likening the state to an organism?
- What does the Melian dialogue tell us about the Athenian concept of empire?
- What is the role of liberty in Cicero's rendition of Roman political thought?
- Why was Caesar killed?
- How was Octavian / Augustus able to transform the Republic into the Empire?

Monday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 4.1 Livius, Titus. "The Parable of Menenius Agrippa"
- 4.2 Rüpke, Jörg, ed. "Roman Religion – Religions of Rome." In: *A companion to Roman religion*. Vol. 78. John Wiley & Sons, 2011. 1-9.
- 4.3 Gotter, Ulrich. "Cultural differences and cross-cultural contact: Greek and Roman concepts of power." *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 104 (2008): 179-230.

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 4.4 Kennedy, Geoff. "Cicero, Roman Republicanism and the Contested Meaning of Libertas." *Political Studies* 62.3 (2014): 488-501.
- 4.5 Williams, Guy. "Augustus and the Visionary Leadership of Pax Romana." *Saber and Scroll* 3.1 (2015): 8. 1-21.

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 5: The Roman Empire in Late Antiquity

Activities:

- ❖ **Assignment 3: Response Essay "Did Rome Fall?" due Monday of Week 5 (February 4), till 8PM PT via canvas and e-mail to philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu**

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What is changing in Roman political thought with Christianity?
- What do you see as possible Roman and Greek legacy within the modern world?
- More specifically, Christopher Hitchens famously declared in *Blood, Class and Empire* that the British Empire compared to the United States was "Greece to their Rome". How much do you see the influence of antiquity in the United States?
- To what degree, would you say, are fears of immigration now informed by perceptions of the fall of Rome?

Monday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 5.2 Deane, Herbert A. "Classical and Christian political thought." *Political Theory* 1.4 (1973): 415-425.
- 5.3 Eliopoulos, Panos. "The Concept of Non-violence in the Philosophy of the Imperial Stoa." *Philosophy Study* 1.1 (2011): 28.

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 5.4 Pagels, Elaine. "The Politics of Paradise: Augustine's Exegesis of Genesis 1-3 versus that of John Chrysostom." *Harvard Theological Review* 78.1-2 (1985): 67-99.
- 5.5 Weithman, Paul. "Augustine's political philosophy." *The Cambridge Companion to Augustine* (2001): 234-252.
- 5.6 Raeder, Linda C. "Augustine and the case for limited government." *Humanitas* 16.2 (2003): 94-107.

Other Texts of Interests (not mandatory):

- 5.1 Ando, Clifford. "Decline, fall, and transformation." *Journal of Late Antiquity* 1.1 (2008): 31-60.

UNIT 3: THE CITY OF GOD – MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT

We'll review several theoretical explorations about the transition from the Roman world to the Middle Ages, and then continue with Augustine, and introduce the political theory of Thomas Aquinas.

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 6: The Transformation of the Ancient World

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What is the role of religion in Middle Age politics? Has it changed since Greek and Roman times?
- How can you tie back ideas discussed by Aquinas back to Plato and Aristotle?
- Now, after having continued to read on the subject matter, do your ideas about the fall of Rome hold up? Do you see more continuities, or more differences between political theory in antiquity vs. the Middle Ages?

Monday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 6.1 Fernie, Eric. "The Origins of Europe." *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes* 71 (2008): 39-53.
- 6.3 Hollister, C. Warren. "The phases of European history and the nonexistence of the Middle Ages." *Pacific Historical Review* 61.1 (1992): 1-22.

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 6.4 Weithman, Paul J. "Augustine and Aquinas on original sin and the function of political authority." *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 30.3 (1992): 353-376.
- 6.5 Cornish, Paul J. "Marriage, slavery, and natural rights in the political thought of Aquinas." *The Review of politics* 60.03 (1998): 545-562.
- 6.6 Swartz, Nico Patrick. "Thomas Aquinas: on law, tyranny and resistance." *Acta Theologica* 30.1 (2010): 145-157.

Other Texts of Interests (not mandatory):

- 6.2 Jones, William R. "The image of the Barbarian in Medieval Europe." *Comparative Studies in society and history* 13.04 (1971): 376-407.

Week 7: Political Rule and Utopia in the Early Middle Ages

February 18-24

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 7: Political Rule and Utopia in the Early Middle Ages

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- At three crucial points of our class, we have seen major figures in politics die for their beliefs; each of these deaths illustrating the spirit of their times – Socrates, Caesar, and More. What unites the three, what separates them?
- Do you agree with the definition of the Middle Ages offered so far? Where would you see the breaking point between Middle Ages and Early Modernity?

Monday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 7.1 Schildgen, Brenda Deen. "Dante's Utopian Political Vision, the Roman Empire, and the Salvation of Pagans." *Annali d'Italianistica* 19 (2001): 51-69.
- 7.2 Warner, John M., and John T. Scott. "Sin city: Augustine and Machiavelli's reordering of Rome." *The Journal of Politics* 73.3 (2011): 857-871.

- 7.3 Davis, Derek. "Seeds of the Secular State: Dante's Political Philosophy as Seen in the *De Monarchia*." *Journal of Church and State* 33.2 (1991): 327-346.

Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

- 7.4 Giorgini, Giovanni. "Cicero and Machiavelli: Two Visions of Statesmanship and Two Educational Projects Compared." *Etica & Politica* 16.2 (2014): 506-515.
- 7.6 Jackson, Michael. "Imagined republics: Machiavelli, utopia, and Utopia." *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 34.4 (2000): 427-437.

Other Texts of Interests (not mandatory):

- 7.5 Peterman, Larry I. "Machiavelli's Dante & the Sources of Machiavellianism." *Polity* 20.2 (1987): 247-272.

UNIT 4: REFLECTION AND STUDENT RESEARCH

The remaining weeks will allow you to find a research topic, present it in the forum, and write your paper.

Week 8: The Legacy of Classical Political Thought

February 25-March 3

Materials:

- Audio Lecture 8: The Legacy of Classical Political Thought

Guiding Discussion Questions:

- What elements of classical political thinking are still alive today?
- We opened up the class with the idea that "the past is a foreign country." I hope it has become more familiar to you. Have there been aspects – related to political thought – which you would have wished to discuss further? You may share this with the class, and invite further discussion

Monday+Wednesday

Texts to be Discussed:

Read at least 4 out of these texts and be prepared to talk about them in class:

- 8.1 Caytas, Joanna Diane. "Parallels in Search of an Intersection: The Manifold Marcus Aurelius Resonances in Walt Whitman's 'Song of Myself'." (2012).
- 8.2 Charles, Michael B. "Remembering and restoring the republic: *Star Wars* and Rome." *Classical World* 108.2 (2015): 281-298.
- 8.3 Coll, Alberto R. "Edward Gibbon's 'History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'." *The Political Science Reviewer* 16 (1986): 97.
- 8.4 Erskine, Andrew. "Ancient History and National Identity." *A Companion to Ancient History* (2009): 555.
- 8.5 Hankins, James. "Machiavelli, Civic Humanism, and the Humanist Politics of Virtue." *Italian culture* 32.2 (2014): 98-109.
- 8.6 Katz, Claudio. "The socialist polis: antiquity and socialism in Marx's thought." *The Review of politics* 56.02 (1994): 237-260.

- 8.7 Lachmann, Richard, and Fiona Rose-Greenland. "Why we fell: Declinist writing and theories of imperial failure in the longue duree." *Poetics* 50 (2015): 1-19.
- 8.8 Larsen, Øjvind. "From Pericles to Plato – from democratic political praxis to totalitarian political philosophy." *Nordicum-Mediterraneum* 7:2 (2012). <http://nome.unak.is/nm-marzo-2012/vol-7-n-2-2012>
- 8.9 Long, Anthony A. "The concept of the cosmopolitan in Greek & Roman thought." *Daedalus* 137.3 (2008): 50-58.
- 8.10 McGlew, James F. "Revolution and Freedom in Theodor Mommsen's "Römische Geschichte"." *The Phoenix* (1986): 424-445.
- 8.11 Miles, Gary B. "Roman and modern imperialism: A reassessment." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 32.04 (1990): 629-659.
- 8.12 Mitchell, Thomas N. "Roman republicanism: the underrated legacy." *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 145.2 (2001): 127-137.
- 8.13 Mommsen, Theodor E. "St. Augustine and the Christian idea of progress: The background of the City of God." *Journal of the History of Ideas* (1951): 346-374.
- 8.14 Nelson, Jinty. "Charlemagne and Europe." *Journal of the British Academy*, Vol. 2. (2014), 125–152.
- 8.15 Ober, Josiah. "What the ancient Greeks can tell us about democracy." *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 11 (2008): 67-91.
- 8.16 Popper, Karl. "Popper on Democracy: The Open Society and Its Enemies Revisited." *The Economist*, 307.754 (Apr. 23, 1988): p. 19.
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2016/01/karl-popper-democracy>
- 8.17 Samons, L. J. "Democracy, Empire, and the Search for the Athenian Character." *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*, vol. 8, no. 3, 2001, pp. 128–157.
- 8.18 Ward, Lee. "The Relation between Politics and Philosophy in Plato's Apology of Socrates." *International Philosophical Quarterly* 49.4 (2009): 501-519.
- 8.19 Williamson, Thad. "The good society and the good soul: Plato's Republic on leadership." *The Leadership Quarterly* 19.4 (2008): 397-408.
- 8.20 Zuckert, Michael. "The fullness of being: Thomas Aquinas and the modern critique of natural law." *The Review of politics* 69.01 (2007): 28-47.

Week 9: Student Presentations

March 4-10

Activities:

- ❖ **Assignment 4: Present your own research**

Week 10: Time for Writing your Research Paper (Dead Week)

March 11-17

Week 11: Submit Your Paper (Finals Week)

March 18-24

Activities:

- ❖ **Assignment 5: Send in Final Research Paper by Monday of Week 11 (March 18), 8 PM PT via canvas and e-mail to philipp.kneis@oregonstate.edu**