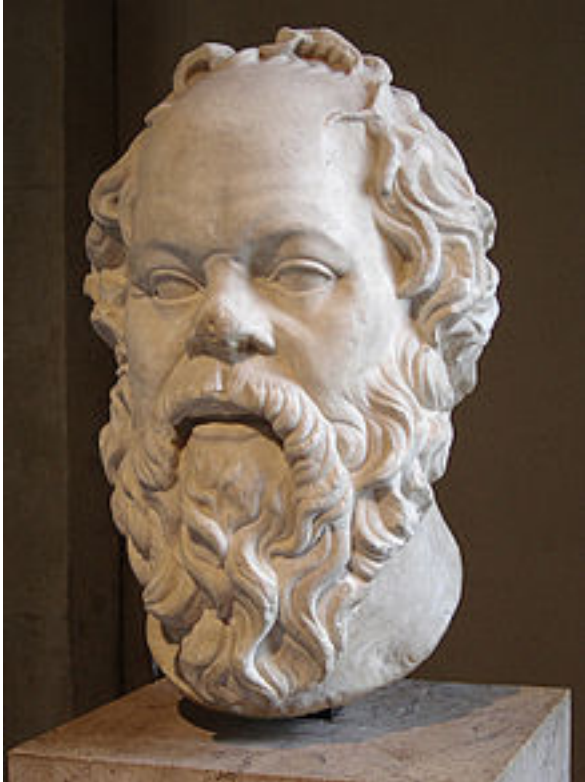


**Pol 200Y1Y (L5101): Political Theory: Visions of the Just/Good Society
2016-2017**



PROFESSORS BALOT AND ORWIN

Professor: Ryan K. Balot (fall term)
Department of Political Science
Sidney Smith Hall, Rm. 3064
Ryan.Balot@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-2:00pm

Professor Clifford Orwin (winter term)
Department of Political Science
Sidney Smith Hall, Rm. 3055

St. Michael's College, Carr Hall, Rm. 309

Professor Orwin will hold office hours in the fall on Wednesdays 4:00-6:00 pm in S.S. 3055 and in the winter on Thursdays 4:00-6:00 pm in Carr Hall 309.

Description

This course offers an introduction to the history of political thought through careful study of six of the greatest political thinkers. Its theme is the good society: we will consider such questions as the nature of justice and the kind of society that would come closest to achieving it. Would such a society be possible? Would it even be desirable?

The course will stress improving your skills at reading and interpreting complex texts addressing fundamental issues. Come to class having carefully completed the reading assigned for that day. Take notes as you read on both the content of the reading and possible interpretations of it. **Expect a wild ride: there's no telling where these thinkers will lead you.**

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN POL 200Y THIS YEAR. Research confirms that the use of such devices (to say nothing of their misuse) distracts other students and is detrimental to the user's own performance. Research has further shown that what most contributes to comprehension of material is taking notes on it by hand, so that's the skill we're encouraging you to practice. **Please do not bring electronic devices to lecture or tutorial or (if you must do so) leave them in their cases for the duration of the class. Recording of lectures or tutorials is likewise prohibited, as is the use of cell phones during class. Cell phones should be turned off beforehand. WE TAKE LEARNING SERIOUSLY AND ARE COMMITTED TO FOSTERING CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO IT.**

Exceptions to this policy will be made for students certified by Accessibility Services as required to use electronic devices, as well as for volunteer note takers registered with AS to upload their notes to the Accessibility web site.

Texts

Thucydides, *On Justice, Power and Human Nature*, tr. Woodruff (Hackett)

Plato, *Republic*, tr. Grube (rev. by Reeve) (Hackett)

Aristotle, *Politics*, tr. Barker (Oxford)

Machiavelli. *The Prince*, translated by H.C. Mansfield, Jr. (Univ. of Chicago Press)

Hobbes. *Leviathan*, ed. E.M. Curley (Hackett)
Locke. *Second Treatise on Government*, ed. R.H. Cox (AHM Croft's Classics)
__. *Letter on Toleration*, ed. James H. Tully (Hackett)

These books are available at the Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor St. West. Be sure to purchase the correct translations and editions.

Grades

Grades will be based on attendance at and participation in your tutorial (10% of the final grade); your five best of six pop quizzes to be administered in lecture (3% each, 15% in all), two essays of no more than 1200 words, due November 2 and November 30, (10% each); an essay of no more than 2750 words, due Monday, March 20 (25%); a final examination during the examination period (30%). **IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A PASSING GRADE, YOU MUST SUBMIT ALL THREE ESSAYS AND SIT THE FINAL EXAM.**

Guidelines for Papers

1. Be sure to keep an extra hard copy of your papers in case the paper you submit is lost.
2. Place a word count at the top of each paper just under your name. Penalties (2 points for each 100 words or fraction thereof) will be attached to papers that run over the prescribed word limit.
3. Hard copies of the essays are to be turned in during the lecture to your discussion leader on the due dates, unless your TA makes other arrangements.

N.B.: No extensions will be granted on written work except with good cause. You yourself may grant yourself an extension, however, at a cost of 3 points plus 2 points per calendar day. This penalty will attach to all late papers unaccompanied by a doctor's certificate. THE MAXIMUM LATENESS PENALTY WILL BE 15 POINTS PER ASSIGNMENT.

4. **You should familiarize yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>.** You must write your papers specifically for this class; you should not borrow material from another class; and you should not use another person's words or ideas without attribution, whether those words or ideas come from conversations, the internet, or printed materials. If you are in doubt about whether you are committing plagiarism, feel free to ask the lecturer or a discussion leader; but a good rule of thumb is that if you are in doubt, then cite a source.
5. Students are strongly advised to keep all rough and draft work related to a particular assignment until the assignment has been marked and returned.

6. It would be wise to examine the guidelines on writing provided at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>.
7. **Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.**

Schedule of Readings for the Fall Semester

Read the assignments before the lecture

September 14: Introduction

September 21: Thucydides, pp. 1-58 (note: page numbers refer to the Woodruff edition; other assignments will be listed by book, chapter, or section number, unless otherwise indicated)

September 28: Thucydides, pp. 66-76, 89-95, 102-109, 111-123

October 5: Plato, *Republic* Book 1

October 12: Plato, *Republic* Books 2-3

October 19: Plato, *Republic* Books 4-5

October 26: Plato, *Republic* Books 6-7

November 2: Plato, *Republic* Books 8-9; **first paper due**

November 9: Plato, *Republic* Book 10

November 16: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 1.1-7, 1.12-13, 2.1-5

November 23: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 3, 4.1-9

November 30: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 7.1-3, 7.8-10, 7.13-15, 8.1-2; **second paper due**