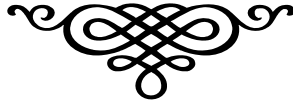


**POL200Y. Political Theory: visions of the just/good society/city
2010-2011**



Instructor: Rebecca Kingston, Associate Professor of Political Science

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This course is designed to give you a general introduction to major thinkers and important themes in the history of political thought from ancient times to the 17th century. It will highlight the continuities and clashes between classical political thinkers in both Eastern and Western traditions and key political theorists of the 17th century in Europe whose thought has become associated with modern liberalism.

The course will place special emphasis on three themes:

- 1) What makes for a good place to live, or a good city to live in? Institutions that conform to principles of justice? A place where the freedom and creativity of individuals is valued above all? Where technology is harnessed to support sustainable life? A social ethos of caring and concern? Good sports and entertainment options? A place where the highest human capacities are developed and sustained, or a place that makes us feel safe? Are these concerns compatible? How do they relate to one another and how should we prioritize them?
- 2) Does the model of good community and fulfilled human lives hold universally, or is it relative to cultural and historical contexts? If the latter, how do we judge what goes on within other communities?
- 3) Previous articulations of the answers to these questions have been associated with imperialist, racist, sexist and generally hegemonic practices. Does this compromise their usefulness as inspirations for political thinking today?

Course requirements (further details on each assignment are noted below):

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|---|-----|
| First Term Test (December 1 st) | 25% |
| Second Term Essay, 10-12 pp. (due March 30 th) | 30% |
| Final Exam (to be scheduled in the final examination period in April) | 35% |
| Attendance and Participation in Tutorials | 10% |

First Term Test:

The test will cover all the material studied in the first term, i.e. the readings by Plato, Aristotle and Confucius. The questions will be comparative. Location of the test will be announced both in class and on the Blackboard site.

Second Term Essay:

Just before Reading Week I will distribute and post on Blackboard a list of questions to serve for the second term essay. For this paper in the second term it is suggested that you consult at least 2-3 secondary sources of a “scholarly” nature. If you are unsure as to what constitutes a scholarly source, please consult with either your T.A. or with me. The paper should be 10 to 12 pages long, double spaced. It is due on March 30th.

Tutorials:

In addition to lectures, students should attend tutorials starting at the beginning of October. You will be asked to sign up for your tutorial on the Blackboard site for the class. Details about this will be announced in class before the end of September.

Reminders and regulations:

Links to information about writing resources on campus are available for students online through the Blackboard website for this course

Please consult with your T.A. if you require extensions on your assignments. Without prior permission from your T.A., assignments handed in late will be deducted 2% of the assignment grade per day (including weekends). For late essays electronic submissions are permitted, as long as they are followed up by a paper copy.

Students are also required to keep their rough and draft work and copies of their assignments until the end of the course when grades are posted on ROSI. University policy regarding plagiarism will be strictly enforced. Please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism on the Blackboard site or at www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html .

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 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 website. If, as a student, you object to using turnitin.com, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative

arrangements for submission of your written assignments.

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> .

Required readings:

The books listed below can be purchased at the Bob Miller Bookroom, 180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse (just across from the ROM crystal), 416-922-3557. (The bookstore is normally open weekdays until 6, but the owner has made special arrangements to be open until 8:00 p.m. on Sept. 15th, the first day of class.)

Plato. *The Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992.

Aristotle. *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Confucius. *The Analects*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Christine de Pizan. *The Book of the City of Ladies*. New York: Persea Books, 1982.

Machiavelli. *Selected Political Writings*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.

Hobbes. *Leviathan*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994.

Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980.

It is **strongly** recommended that you consult **the editions listed above** as otherwise you will run into differences in translation which could lead to certain confusion in class and group discussion.

Course outline (subject to modification):

1st term

Week 1- Introduction to the course

Week 2 - The institutions of democratic Athens: the ideal city?

Weeks 3 to 7- Plato *The Republic*: the just city

Weeks 8 to 11- Aristotle *The Politics*: the pursuit of happiness in common

Weeks 12 and 13- Confucius *The Analects*: the cultivation of concern in the city

2nd term

Weeks 1 to 2- Christine de Pizan *The Book of the City of Ladies*: the struggle for inclusiveness in the city

Weeks 3 to 6- Machiavelli *The Prince* and *The Discourses*: the dilemmas of leadership and founding a city

Week 7- Reading week

Weeks 8 to 10- Hobbes' *Leviathan*: the priority of security

Weeks 11 to 13- Locke's *Second Treatise*: the priority of individual liberty

Week 14- Review

Readings and assignments:

1st Term:

- September 15th** - Introduction
- September 22nd** - Read Plato, *The Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992, Books 1-3.
-Please sign up for tutorials on the Blackboard site later this week. An announcement about this will be made in class.
- September 29th** - Read Plato, *The Republic*, Books 4-6.
- Tutorial groups will begin meeting around this time. Please be sure that you have assigned yourself to a group on the Blackboard website for the course.
- October 6th** - Read Plato, *The Republic*, Books 7-8.
- October 13th** - Read Plato, *The Republic*, Books 9-10.
- October 20th** - Read Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 10, chap. 9 and *The Politics*, Books 1 and 2 (in *The Politics and The Constitution of Athens* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- October 27th** - Read Aristotle, *The Politics*, Books 3 and 4.
- November 3rd** - Read Aristotle, *The Politics*, Books 5 and 6.
- November 10th** - Read Aristotle, *The Politics*, Books 7 and 8.
-No tutorials this week (mid-term break)
- November 17th** - Read Confucius, *The Analects*, Books 1-10.
- November 24th** - Read Confucius, *The Analects*, Books 11-20.
- December 1st** -**First Term Test (location to be announced)**

2nd Term

- January 12th** - Read Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*. New York, Persea Books, 1982, Parts 1 and 2.
- January 19th** - Read Christine de Pizan, *The Book of the City of Ladies*, Part 3.
- January 26th** - Read Machiavelli, "Letter to Francesco Vettori" and *The Prince* in *Selected Political Writings* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994), chaps. 1 to 13.
- February 2nd** - Read Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chaps. 14 to 26.
- February 9th** - Read Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (selections), Book I.
- Selected topics and general instructions for the essay (due March 30th) will be handed out this week.
- February 16th** - Read Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (selections), Books II and III.
- February 23rd** - Reading week (no class!)
- March 2nd** - Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, Introduction and chaps. 1
- March 9th** - Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, chaps. 14 to 16, Part II, chaps. 17 to 20.
- March 16th** - Read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, chaps. 21 to 31.
- March 23rd** - Read Locke. *Second Treatise*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980, chaps. 1 to 10.
- March 30th** - **Essay due (10-12 pp.)**
- Read Locke, *Second Treatise*, chaps. 11 to 14.
- April 6th** - Read Locke, *Second Treatise*, chaps. 15-19.
- Summary and review

The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period. See your T.A. for further details.