

**Pol 200Y1Y (L5101): Political Theory: Visions of the Just/Good Society
2017-2018**

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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00-3:00pm

Description

The course examines several of the most important attempts to understand human beings as ethical and political agents. We will first reconstruct the central ideas of these texts in their historical contexts. Then we will evaluate their positions on topics such as power, freedom, justice, virtue, and human nature. Come to class having completed the reading assigned for that day. Take notes as you read—both summaries of content and interpretive ideas.

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, *Selected Political Writings*, tr. Wootton (Hackett)
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Curley (Hackett)
Locke, *Second Treatise*, ed. Macpherson (Hackett)
Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, ed. 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 and participation, three essays, and a final examination:

Attendance and Participation in Tutorials: 15% of the final grade.

Essays 1 and 2: no more than 1200 words, Plato and Aristotle. Papers due on November 1st and December 6th. Each will count for 15% of the final grade.

Essay 3: no more than 2750 words, Machiavelli, Hobbes, or Locke. Paper due April 4th. 30% of the final grade.

Final examination during the examination period: 25% of the final grade.

Electronics

Improper use of electronic devices is forbidden in both lectures and tutorials.

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.
4. Late papers will be penalized 2 points per day of lateness.
5. No extensions, etc. without a certificate from your physician.
6. 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 me or a discussion leader; but a good rule of thumb is that if you are wondering about this, you should cite a source.
7. Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before them in. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.
8. 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.
9. It is a good idea to examine the guidelines on writing provided at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>

Schedule of Readings for the Fall Semester

Read the assignments before the lecture

September 13: Introduction

September 20: 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 27: Thucydides, pp. 66-76, 89-95, 102-109, 111-123

October 4: Plato, *Republic* Book 1

October 11: Plato, *Republic* Books 2-3

October 18: Plato, *Republic* Books 4-5

October 25: Plato, *Republic* Books 6-7

November 1: Plato, *Republic* Books 8-9; **first paper due**

November 8: Fall Reading Week; No Class

November 15: Plato, *Republic* Book 10

November 22: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 1.1-7, 1.12-13, 2.1-5

November 29: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 3, 4.1-9

December 6: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 7.1-3, 7.8-10, 7.13-15, 8.1-2; **second paper due**