

**Pol 200Y1Y (L0101): Political Theory: Visions of the Just/Good Society
Summer 2010**

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm

Description

The course examines seven attempts to understand the behavior of human beings as political agents and the normative principles underlying that behavior. We will first reconstruct the central theses of these texts in their historical contexts. Then we will normatively evaluate their stances on topics such as power, individuality, the distribution of resources, the cultivation of 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 interpretative ideas; this will be much more productive than simply underlining in your copies of the texts.

Texts

Thucydides, *On Justice, Power and Human Nature*, tr. Woodruff (Hackett)
Plato, *Republic*, tr. Grube (rev. by Reeve) (Hackett)
Aristotle, *Politics*, tr. Barker (Oxford)
Cicero, *On Obligations*, tr. Walsh (Oxford)
Machiavelli, *Selected Political Writings*, tr. Wootton (Hackett)
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ed. Curley (Hackett)
Locke, *Second Treatise*, ed. Macpherson (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, two essays, and a final examination:

Attendance and Participation in Tutorials: 10% of the final grade.

Essay 1: 1500 words, Plato and Aristotle. Topics distributed June 8; paper due on June 22. 25% of the final grade.

Essay 2: 1500 words, Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Locke. Topics distributed July 13; paper due August 3. 30% of the final grade.

Final examination during the examination period: 35% of the final grade.

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.
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

Read the assignments before the lecture

May 11: Introduction

May 13: Thucydides, pp. 12-58 (note: page numbers refer to the Woodruff edition; other assignments will be listed by book, chapter, or section number, unless otherwise indicated)

May 18: Thucydides, pp. 66-76, 89-95, 102-109, 111-123

May 20: Plato, *Republic* Book 1.

May 25: Plato, *Republic* Books 2-3

May 27: Plato, *Republic* Books 4-5

June 1: Plato, *Republic* Books 6-7

June 3: Plato, *Republic* Books 8-9

June 8: Plato, *Republic* Book 10; First paper topics distributed.

June 10: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 1.1-7, 1.12-13, 2.1-5

June 15: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 3, 4.1-9

June 17: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 7.1-3, 7.8-10, 7.13-15, 8.1-2

June 22: Cicero, *On Obligations* Book 1; **First paper due**

June 24: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Epistle Dedicatory and Chapters 1-8

June 29: JUNE BREAK

July 1: CANADA DAY

July 6: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 9-18

July 8: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chapters 19-26

July 13: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, pp. (**PAGE NUMBERS**): 81-121; Second Paper Topics Distributed

July 15: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, pp. 121-158

July 20: Machiavelli, *The Discourses*, pp. 158-189

July 22: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Letter to Francis Godolphin, Hobbes's Introduction, Chapters 1-12

July 27: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 13-18

July 29: Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chapters 19-21, 25, 29-30

August 3: Locke, *Second Treatise*, 1-5; **Second Paper Due**

August 5: Locke, *Second Treatise*, 6-10

August 10: Locke, *Second Treatise*, 11-19

August 12: Conclusion

Final Examination: Date and Time to be announced; exam week is August 16-20.