

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POL200Y1Y: Visions of the Just/Good Society

L5101

Summer 2018

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8pm

SS 1069

Instructors: Scott Dodds and Zak Black

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TA office hours: TBA in tutorial

Course Description: This course introduces students to the study of politics through a theoretical or philosophical lens. It proceeds by way of a careful reading of some of the major texts in the history of political thought, from the Peloponnesian War in ancient Greece (ca. 431-404 BCE) to the Glorious Revolution in England (ca. 1688). Our task is to exhume the visions of the best political order, and of the best human life, articulated (sometimes explicitly, sometimes not) in the works we will be reading. Additionally, we will be exploring the conditions necessary for these visions, as well as the challenges that threaten them.

The theories of Locke and Hobbes will allow us to better understand the origins and foundations of the modern liberal state. The more alien theories of the ancients challenge us to see the modern liberal state with new eyes, and to familiarize ourselves with some of its most profound shortcomings. Throughout the course, the fragility of political life, and the terrible possibility of its collapse, will loom over our loftier discussions.

In order to make such an exploration possible, students must read the course texts carefully, paying special attention to the use of familiar political terms like *justice*, *liberty*, and *equality*, but also to the less familiar terms that characterize ancient political thought: *tyranny*, the *soul*, *courage*, *wisdom*, *honour*, *rhetoric*, and others that we will discuss in lecture. In addition to these terms, students should pay attention to the different forms that *politics* itself takes throughout these works, from the small-scale ancient Greek *polis*, through the medieval "chain of being," to the modern state.

Required Texts: It is **imperative** that you use the translations listed here, for three reasons: (1) translations and editions vary greatly in quality, and the ones listed here are excellent; (2) when we all have the same page numbers, it will be much easier for you to follow along in class and tutorial; and, (3) you will not be able to cite the texts adequately

on your essays without the correct editions. (**N.B.:** You must have your texts with you in lecture and tutorial.)

The following texts will be available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore, unless otherwise indicated on the course schedule.

Thucydides. *On Justice, Power, and Human Nature: Selections from the History of the Peloponnesian War*. Trans. Paul Woodruff. Hackett. 1993.

Plato. *The Republic*. Trans. Allan Bloom. Basic Books. 1991.

Aristotle. *The Politics*. Trans. Carnes Lord. Chicago University Press. 2013.

Niccolò Machiavelli. *The Prince*. Trans. Harvey Mansfield. Chicago University Press. 2010.

Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan*. Ed. Edwin Curley. Hackett. 1994.

John Locke. *Political Writings*. Ed. David Wootton. Hackett. 2003.

Course Requirements:

Comprehension Paper (1000 - 1200 words)	10% (due May 18, midnight)
First Essay (1500-1700 words)	20 % (due June 15, midnight)
Second Essay (2200-2500 words)	30 % (due August 3, midnight)
Final Exam	30 % (held during the exam period)
Tutorial Attendance and Participation	10%

Paper Expectations:

ESSAYS MUST CITE PRIMARY SOURCES. Paper evaluation will be based largely on demonstrated familiarity with the readings.

Sources should be cited correctly, using CMS format. Use of secondary sources is discouraged, but if used they must be cited. A link to the Chicago Manual of Style can be found here: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

Potential essay topics will be posted to Blackboard well before the essays are due. Students must write on one of the assigned topics.

Papers should be submitted as **Word documents (.doc or .docx)** to Blackboard and turnitin.com (see below) by midnight of the deadline.

Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before handing in to the TA/Instructor/Department. All essays/assignments should be kept by the student until the marked essays/assignments have been returned to them and the grades are posted on ACORN.

Late Papers

Late papers will be penalized -2% a day, including weekends.

Turnitin

Students will be expected to submit their papers to turnitin.com. Submission guidelines will be provided by the instructors.

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.¹

PLAGIARISM GUIDELINES: 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. Students are strongly advised to keep all rough and draft work related to a particular assignment until the assignment has been marked and returned. It would be wise to examine the guidelines on writing provided at <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Thucydides: Unity and Disunity in Political Life

1. **May 7 - Introduction**, What is political theory and why does it matter?
Reading: Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, pp. 39-46
2. **May 9** - Thucydides, pp. 1-30; 46-50; 52-58; 66-76
3. **May 14** – Thucydides, pp. 89-95; 102-109; 112-123; 145-154

Socrates: The Beginning of Political Philosophy

4. **May 16 - Plato, *The Republic*, books 1-2**
5. **May 23** - Plato, *The Republic*, books 3-4 [**No class Monday May 21**]
6. **May 28** - Plato, *The Republic*, books 5-6

¹ Cited from the Plagiarism Guidelines for POL200Y1Y, 2016-2017, Ryan Balot and Clifford Orwin.

7. **May 30** - Plato, *The Republic*, books 7-8
8. **June 4** - Plato, *The Republic*, books 9-10

Aristotle: The Science of Politics

9. **June 6** - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, book 10 (§§ 6-9); *The Politics*, book 1
10. **June 11** - Aristotle, *The Politics*, book 2 (§§ 1-5, 7); book 3
11. **June 13** - Aristotle, *The Politics*, book 4 (§§ 1-9, 11); book 5 (§ 11); book 6 (§ 4)
12. **June 18** - Aristotle, *The Politics*, book 7 (§§ 1-3, 7-8, 13-16); book 8 [**Make-up Monday**]

BREAK June 19 – July 2 (NO LECTURE OR TUTORIALS)

Aquinas: After the Empire, Before the State

13. **July 4** - Aquinas, selections from *On Kingship* (online)

Machiavelli: The First Modern?

14. **July 9** - Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedicatory Letter; chapters 1-6
15. **July 11** - Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 7-13
16. **July 16** - Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 14-19
17. **July 18** - Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs. 20-26

Hobbes: The New Science of Politics

18. **July 23** - Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Epistle Dedicatory; Introduction; books 1-7; books 10-13
19. **July 25** - Hobbes, *Leviathan*, books 14-16
20. **July 30** - Hobbes, *Leviathan*, books 17-21; 25-27; 30
21. **August 1** - Hobbes, *Leviathan*, books 31-33; 39; 41; 43; 47

Locke: The Foundations of Liberalism

1. **August 8** - Locke, *The Letter on Toleration* [**No class August 6**]
2. **August 13** - Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, chs. 1-7
3. **August 14** - Locke, *The Second Treatise*, chs. 8-19 [**Make-up Tuesday**]