

Classic Texts in Political Theory I (POL B70H3 Y)
Summer 2010

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I. Course Aims and Objectives

This course will involve a close examination of some of the most brilliant and influential texts in the history of political thought. We will study the works of Sophocles, Plato, Aristotle, and Niccolo Machiavelli to ask questions such as: What is political theory? What are the ends of politics? Is politics solely the concern of rulers and institutions or is it personal politics? How ought we balance the role of reason and the passions in the exercise of political power? What roles do culture, the arts, and the family play in political life? The aim of this course is to introduce students to these classic texts, paying attention to both their historical context and their philosophical depth. The learning objectives are to broaden your understanding of western political thought, to interpret the arguments of key texts, to develop your critical abilities to assess their themes and arguments, and to improve analytical skills in thinking about the questions these texts raise.

II. Required Texts

Sophocles, *Antigone*, tr. Woodruff (Hackett)
Plato, *Republic*, tr. Grube. (Hackett)
Aristotle, *Politics*, tr. Reeve (Hackett)
Machiavelli, *The Prince*, ed. Skinner (Cambridge)

Books are available at the UTSC bookstore and are priced affordably. Please try and purchase these editions, as translations can vary. Under no circumstances should students rely on online versions of these texts. The integrity of e-texts is often compromised, and moreover students are expected to bring their texts to class.

III. Course Requirements

(a) Class Participation (10%)

Students will be graded on the quantity and quality of their participation in lecture and tutorials, where they are expected to demonstrate familiarity with the readings and issues addressed in the lectures. While attendance is a necessary prerequisite for participation, attendance alone without participation will not count towards this mark.

(b) In-class Exam (20%)

The exam will be conducted in lecture on **June 2nd**. Make-up tests will be offered only for those students who provide appropriate documentation concerning their absence from a physician or councillor. Students must submit a written request for special consideration within one week of the missed test.

(c) In-Class Essay (30%)

Study topics will be distributed in advance of the essay. The essay will be conducted in tutorial on **July 14th**. Make-up essays will be offered only for those students who provide appropriate documentation concerning their absence from a physician or councillor. Students must submit a written request for special consideration within one week of the missed essay.

(d) Final Exam (40%)

The final examination will cover all of the course material. Study questions will be circulated on the last day of class. Date TBA.

IV. Academic Integrity

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/academicintegrity/Academic_integrity.pdf. You must write your paper 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. Work suspected of plagiarism will be subject to a full disciplinary review as reviewed in the University of Toronto Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, usb key, or a hard copy. Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied may be subject to disciplinary action as per the UTSC Code of Behaviour.

V. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the UTSC policy and the Ontario Human Rights Commission, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with *AccessAbility Services* to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

VI. Tentative Course Schedule

May 3: Introduction: What is political theory?

May 12: Sophocles, *Antigone*

May 19: Plato, *Republic* Book 1

May 26: Plato, *Republic* Books 2-3. Tutorials begin.

June 2: **Exam** in lecture

June 9: Plato, *Republic* Books 4-5

June 16: Plato, *Republic* Books 6-7

June 23: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 1.1-7, 1.12-13, 2.1-5. Essay topics distributed

- June 30: READING WEEK NO LECTURE -

July 7: Aristotle, *Politics* Books 3, 4.1-9

July 14: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books 7.1-3, 7.8-10, 7.13-15, 8.1-2 **In-Class Essay** in tutorial

July 21: Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Dedicatory letter, I-XI

July 28: Machiavelli, *The Prince* XII-XXVI