

History of Political Thought

Dr. Mehmet Özyürek

Type of Course: Compulsory

Academic Year: 2019-20

Semester: Fall

Credit Hours: 3

Lecturer Details:

Time: Wednesday, 14:00-17:00

Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-13:30

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Course Objectives:

This class focuses on major texts in the history of political thought. It considers the ways in which thinkers such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke have responded to the particular political problems. With this course, students will be able to examine central concepts in political theory including the state of nature, the social contract, authority, legitimacy, obligation, consent, rights, the public/private distinction, justice, liberty, and equality.

Course Requirements:

Attendance & Active Participation.

Required Reading: See list below.

Midterm and Final Examinations.

Final Grade Apportionment:

Midterm examination: 40%

Final examination: 60%.

The Course Program and Readings:

- **Introduction and Political Thought in the Ancient World –China, Greece (1 class sessions)**
- **Ancient Greece – Confucius, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle (4 class sessions)**
Plato's "The Apology of Socrates" (full text): <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>
Plato's "The Republic" (full text): <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>
Aristotle's "Politics" (full text): <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>
- **Polybios, Cicero, Stoicism (2 class sessions)**
Sabine, George H. A History of Political Theory. 1961. New York : Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Ch. 7-8, pp. 123-158.
Michael, Oakeshott. Lectures in the History of Political Thought. 2006. Exeter : Imprint Academic, Ch. 10, pp. 160-175.
- **Ancient Christianity, St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Dante (1 class session)**
Thomas Aquinas' "Summa Theologica": <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/bookshelf/119>
- Oakeshott, Michael Lectures in the History of Political Thought. 2006. Exeter : Imprint Academic, Ch. 21-22, pp. 322-338, 339-358.
- **Machiavelli and the Beginning of the New Ages (2 class sessions)**

Niccolo Machiavelli's "The Prince" (full text):

<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/machiavelli.html>

Niccolo Machiavelli's "Discourses on the First Decade of Titus Livius" (full text):

<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/10827/pg10827.html>

- **The Social Contract – Hobbes, Locke (2 class sessions)**

Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan (full text): <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm>

John Locke's Second Treatise of Government (full text):

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7370/7370-h/7370-h.htm>

- **Immanuel Kant, Jeremy Bentham (3 class sessions)**

Gary Browning. A History of Modern Political Thought. The Question of Interpretation. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Recommended Texts:

Tannenbaum, Donald G. & David Schultz. Inventors of Ideas: An Introduction to Western Political Philosophy. 1998. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Black, Antony. Political Thought in Europe: 1250-1450. 2000. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hallowell, John H. & Jene M. Porter. Political Philosophy: The Search For Humanity and Order. 1997. Ontario: Prentice Hall.

Boucher, David & Paul Kelly (ed.). Political Thinkers: From Socrates to the Present. 2009. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Burns, J.H. (ed.) The Cambridge History of Political Thought: 1450-1700. 1991. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Cartledge, Paul. Ancient Greek Political Thought in Practice. 2009. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Curtis, Michael (ed.). The Great Political Theories. 2008. New York, Harper Collins.

Hallowell, John H. & Jene M. Porter. Political Philosophy: The Search For Humanity and Order. 1997. Ontario: Prentice Hall.

N/A

Hampsher-Monk, Iain. A History of Modern Political Thought : Major Political Thinkers from Hobbes to Marx. 1992. Cambridge: Blackwell

Losco, Joseph & Leonard Williams (eds). Political Theory Classic and Contemporary Readings, Vol. 1: Thucydides to Machiavelli. 2002. Roxbury Publishing Company.

Losco, Joseph & Leonard Williams (eds). Political Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings Volume II: Machiavelli to Rawls. 2002. Roxbury Publishing Company.

Roberts, Peri & Peter Such. An Introduction to Political Thought. 2004. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Rowe, Christopher & Malcolm Schofield. The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought. 2000. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Sheldon, G.W. The History of Political Theory: Ancient Greece to Modern America. 2003. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

Springborg, Patricia. History of Political Thought: The Emergence of Political Thinking in the West from Plato to Aquinas. 2006. Cambridge : Polity Press.