

Spring 2013
The Classical Quest for Justice

GOV 351C, Unique # 38860
CTI335, Unique # 34095
EUS 348, Unique # 36540

MWF 12:00-1:00, UTC 3.134

Professor Dana Stauffer

Office: Mezes 3.136

tel. 232-1448

email: danastauffer@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 and Wednesdays 2-3

This course introduces students to the political thought of classical Greek antiquity. Ancient Greek thinkers presented their reflections on politics in a variety of ways. Some wrote treatises, but others expressed themselves through plays, histories, and, of course, dialogues. While the authors we will read in this course present their work in different formats, they all address themselves to the simplest and deepest questions raised by political life, and offer profound insight into the answers to those questions. Two main themes lie at the heart of their common inquiry: Justice—what it is, and how human beings can attain it—and the human good. Examples of the questions that we will take up are: What is the best form of political community? Why philosophize? What is human virtue? Do human beings necessarily follow their self-interest? Is devotion possible? Do we have free will? What is courage? What is friendship? What is a good life? We will not approach the texts as historical curiosities, but rather, as potential sources of wisdom about the greatest questions we face in our own lives.

Required Texts:

- Aristotle's *Politics*. Translated by Ernest Barker. (Oxford)
- Thucydides' *History of the Peloponnesian War*. (Penguin Classics)
- *Four Comedies*. By Aristophanes. (Ann Arbor Paperbacks)
- *Sophocles I: Three Tragedies*. By Sophocles. (Chicago)
- "Protagoras" and "Meno" By Plato. Translated by Robert C. Bartlett. (Agora)
- Plato's *Republic*. Translated by Allan Bloom. (Basic Books)

It is particularly important to obtain the recommended translations of Plato.

Course Requirements and Grading:

First Exam: 30%

Second Exam: 30%

Paper: 30%

Class Participation (including pop quizzes): 10%

Exams: Exams will be in-class blue book exams, comprised mostly if not entirely of essays. I will hand out a list of themes in advance from which the essay question(s) will be drawn. The second exam will be cumulative, but it will be weighted considerably more toward the readings of the second half of the semester.

Papers: You will be required to write one 5-7 page paper over the course of the term. I will hand out possible paper topics three times during the term, each with their own respective due dates. The task of the paper will be to explain and evaluate the arguments of one or two of the thinkers we have read. You must choose to write one of the two papers. Late work will be marked down one-third of a letter grade for each day of lateness (from a B+ to a B, for example), and papers will NOT be accepted by email.

Class Participation, Quizzes, and Attendance: The works we will read this semester were written with extraordinary care, and they are difficult. It is essential that you read every assignment carefully, preferably twice, and you should come to class with thoughtful comments and questions. Credit will be given in the area of class participation not only for serious and intelligent contributions to class, but also for listening attentively both to the lecture and to the contributions of your fellow classmates.

Laptops are not allowed in class; if you have a special need for a laptop, please explain that need to me.

To encourage students to keep up with the readings, I will give an unspecified number of pop quizzes. These quizzes will consist of basic questions that should not be difficult for those who have done the reading. If you are absent on the day of a quiz, you will receive a zero for that quiz. Makeup quizzes will not be given. If your absence is excused, I will not count that quiz toward your overall quiz grade. I will also drop your lowest quiz grade.

Attendance: I will take attendance frequently, either by passing around an attendance sheet or by taking roll, either at the beginning or at the end of class. On the days on which there is a quiz, attendance will be registered by handing in the quiz. Absences will be excused with a doctor's note only. **Students with 4 or more unexcused absences will be docked a letter grade for the course.** *Example: the grade of a student with a B+ average who has four or more unexcused absences will be a C+.*

You will be expected to bring the relevant volume(s) to every class.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

Notification of a need for disability accommodations must be given to the professor at least 14 days prior to a paper due date or exam.

Notice regarding accommodations for religious holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

Academic Honesty: In all of your work for this course, you are expected to know and to adhere to University of Texas policies regarding academic honesty and integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the course.

Here is a link to the academic honor code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gio9-10/cho1/index.html>.

Course Schedule:

Note: This course schedule is approximate. I will announce the official reading assignment for the next class at the beginning of each class. So be sure to listen carefully at the beginning of each lecture. If you miss a class, you are responsible for finding out the precise reading assignment for the next class. I will sometimes post the assignment on Blackboard, but I won't necessarily do that if I have announced it clearly at the beginning of class. So don't rely on that.

January 14	Intro
January 16	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book VII, 514a-521c
January 18	Sophocles, <i>Antigone</i> , first half
January 23	<i>Antigone</i> , second half
January 25	<i>Antigone</i> in review
January 28	Plutarch, "Life of Lycurgus"
January 30	Thucydides, Corinthians' Speech at Sparta
February 1	The Athenians' Speech At Sparta
February 4	Pericles' Funeral Oration
February 6	Melian Dialogue
February 8	Melian Dialogue II; first paper option offered
February 11	Plato, <i>Republic</i> I
February 13	<i>Republic</i> I
February 15	<i>Republic</i> I
February 18	<i>Republic</i> I
February 20	<i>Republic</i> II
February 22	<i>Republic</i> II; first paper due
February 25	<i>Republic</i> III
February 27	<i>Republic</i> III
March 1	Review
March 4	Exam
March 6	<i>Republic</i> IV
March 8	<i>Republic</i> IV
March 18	<i>Republic</i> V; second paper option offered
March 20	<i>Republic</i> V

March 22	<i>Republic V</i>
March 25	<i>Republic V-VI</i>
March 27	Plato's <i>Protagoras</i>
March 29	<i>Protagoras</i>
April 1	<i>Protagoras</i>
April 5	<i>Protagoras</i> ; second paper due
April 8	<i>Protagoras</i>
April 10	Aristotle's <i>Politics I</i>
April 12	<i>Politics I</i>
April 15	<i>Politics I</i>
April 17	<i>Politics III</i> ; third paper option offered
April 19	<i>Politics III</i>
April 22	<i>Politics III</i>
April 24	<i>Politics III</i>
April 26	Aristophanes, <i>Ecclesiazusae</i>
April 29	<i>Ecclesiazusae</i>
May 1	Review; third paper due
May 3	Exam 2