Political Science 304: Classical Political Theory

Spring 2016
Section 950
Online

Office Hours: By appointment.

Course Description:
The full title of this course is Classical Political Theory: Greeks, Romans, and Christians. (Same as CLAS 305). It is a historically based survey of the classic works of important political thinkers in the ancient and medieval world. Special focus will be on thinkers like Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Machiavelli.

Learning Objectives:
The course is designed to equip students with knowledge of the works of some of the most important political theorists in the Western political tradition. The goal of the course is to provide students with a foundation in the history of Western political theory. Students will learn to be more critical readers, thinkers, and writers and ultimately more reflective about political life by engaging with masterworks within the Western political tradition.

Classroom Expectations and Policies:
This is an online course, but students are still expected to log in to the course weekly and to participate in the class.

Course Requirements:
Discussions: There will be eight discussions throughout the semester. The discussions will be related to the class material, and students will be expected to critically engage each other. The expectations for a good discussion post will be spelled out in the rubric, which students will be able to view ahead of time.

Essays: Students will write three (6-8 page) essays. Students will choose a topic from prompt that I will supply two weeks ahead of time. Citations and bibliography should use Chicago style formatting. I encourage you to email me or to setup office hours if you are confused about the papers. Students will also be able to see a rubric ahead of time that will be used for grading.

Evaluation:
- 8 Discussions 20 pts. each = 160 pts.
- 3 (6-8 page) Essays 100 pts. each = 300 pts.

*Standard percentages will be used in the calculation of final grades.
**Required Text:**

**Course Schedule**
Students should be reading the materials during the weeks indicated.
All selections are from our textbook unless otherwise indicated.

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic/ Author</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:</td>
<td>Socrates and Plato</td>
<td>pp. 166-196</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:</td>
<td>1/25-1/31</td>
<td>pp. 196-229</td>
<td>Discussion 1: 1/31</td>
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<td>3:</td>
<td>2/1- 2/7</td>
<td>pp. 229-262</td>
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<td>4:</td>
<td>2/8- 2/14</td>
<td>pp. 262-290</td>
<td>Discussion 2: 2/14</td>
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<td>7:</td>
<td>2/29- 3/6</td>
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<td>8:</td>
<td>3/7- 3/13</td>
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<td>Discussion 4: 3/13</td>
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<td>9:</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Date Range</td>
<td>Author</td>
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<td>Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/28 - 4/3</td>
<td>Augustine</td>
<td>pp. 463-482</td>
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<td>4/4 - 4/10</td>
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<td>pp. 482-504</td>
<td>Discussion 5: 4/10</td>
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<td>4/11 - 4/17</td>
<td>Aquinas</td>
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<td>4/25 - 5/1</td>
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<td>5/2 - 5/8</td>
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<td>pp. 607-622</td>
<td>Discussion 8: 5/8</td>
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<td>Essay #3: 5/8</td>
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<td>Finals Week</td>
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