

When we describe the political philosophy of Plato and of Aristotle as classical political philosophy, we imply that it is the classic form of political philosophy. The classic was once said to be characterized by noble simplicity and quiet grandeur.... Classical political philosophy is non-traditional because it belongs to the fertile moment when all traditions were shaken, and there was not yet in existence a tradition of political philosophy.... From this it follows that the classical political philosophers see political things with a freshness and directness which have never been equaled. They look at political things in the perspective of the enlightened citizen or statesman.... They do not look at political things from the outside, as spectators of political life.

— Leo Strauss, “What is Political Philosophy?”

**Political Science 4081**  
**History of Political Theory: Plato to More**  
**Fall 2022**

**Instructor:** James Stoner <poston@lsu.edu>  
Stubbs 214 (tel: 225-578-2538)

**Office Hours:** Mon., 1:30-2:30; Wed., 4:30-5:30; Fri., 3:00-4:00, and by appointment

**Course requirements:**

Three in-class examinations, on Sept. 16, Oct. 12, Nov. 4 [45%]  
1500/2000-word paper: topic due Nov. 11; glossary due Nov. 18; paper due Nov. 28 [25%]  
Final examination, Dec. 7 [30%]

**Graduate Students and Honors Option:**

Extra sessions and a 1500/2000-word paper on Leo Strauss, *The City and Man* (Chicago) [ISBN 9780226777016], or Eric Voegelin, *Plato & Aristotle (Order & History, vol. 3, or Collected Works, vol. 16)* due November 14 [= term paper; %'s adjusted]

**Grading scale:**

A+ (98%-100%), A (93%-97%), A- (90%-92%)  
B+ (88%-90%), B (83%-87%), B- (80%-82%)  
C+ (78%-80%), C (73%-77%), C- (70%-72%)  
D+ (68%-70%), D (63%-67%), D- (60%-62%)  
F (below 60%)

**Books available for purchase:**

Robert B. Strassler, ed., *The Landmark Thucydides* (Free Press) [ISBN 9780684827902]  
Allan Bloom, trans., *The Republic of Plato* (Basic) [ISBN 9780465094080]  
Carnes Lord, trans., *Aristotle's Politics*, 2d ed. (Chicago) [ISBN 9780226921846]  
Augustine, *City of God*, tr. Henry Bettenson (Penguin) [ISBN 9780140448948]  
Thomas More, *Utopia*, tr. Malsbary (CTMS) [[HTTPS://THOMASMORESTUDIES.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2021/09/UTOPIA-EPIGRAMS-NOTES-2020.PDF](https://thomasmorestudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/UTOPIA-EPIGRAMS-NOTES-2020.PDF)]

**Course Website:**

A course website will be available to registered students through the Moodle system.

**Library Reserve:**

The readings for the course are available on reserve in the Library, and many are available on the internet. In some cases the editions or translations differ from those listed above; I strongly encourage you to use the translations selected here. I will from time to time place on reserve secondary works that I think you might find helpful in interpreting the authors we are studying and in locating their place in the tradition of political philosophy. It goes without saying that secondary works are no substitute for the assigned reading; indeed, read without knowledge of the originals they are more apt to mislead than assist you.

**SYLLABUS:**

Mon., 8/22 Introduction

**I. THUCYDIDES: Political History**

Wed., 8/24 Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, book 1, ch. 1-66 (pp. 3-37)  
 Fri., 8/26 *Peloponnesian War*, book 1, ch. 67-146 (pp. 38-85)  
 Mon., 8/29 *Peloponnesian War*, book 2, ch. 1-46 (pp. 89-118)  
 Wed., 8/31 *Peloponnesian War*, book 2, ch. 47-103 (pp. 118-156)  
 Fri., 9/2 *Peloponnesian War*, book 3, ch. 1-85 (pp. 159-201)

[LABOR DAY BREAK]

Wed., 9/7 *Peloponnesian War*, book 4, ch. 1-41, 78-88, 102-135 (pp. 223-246, 266-272, 279-297)  
 Fri., 9/9 *Peloponnesian War*, book 5, ch. 1-26, 84-116; book 6, ch. 1-52 (pp. 301-317, 350-357, 361-390)  
 Mon., 9/12 *Peloponnesian War*, book 6, ch. 53-105; book 7, ch. 42-87 (pp. 390-423, 451-478)  
 Wed., 9/14 *Peloponnesian War*, book 8, ch. 1-109 (pp. 481-548)  
 Fri., 9/16 **EXAM** on Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*

**II. PLATO: Political Philosophy**

Mon., 9/19 Plato, *Republic*, book 1  
 Wed., 9/21 *Republic*, book 2  
 Fri., 9/23 *Republic*, book 3  
 Mon., 9/26 *Republic*, book 4  
 Wed., 9/28 *Republic*, book 5  
 Fri., 9/30 *Republic*, book 6  
 Mon., 10/3 *Republic*, book 7  
 Wed., 10/5 *Republic*, book 8  
 Fri., 10/7 *Republic*, book 9  
 Mon., 10/10 *Republic*, book 10

Wed., 10/12 **EXAM** on Plato, *Republic*

[FALL BREAK]

### III. ARISTOTLE: Political Science

Mon., 10/17 Aristotle, *Politics*, book 1

Wed., 10/19 *Politics*, book 2

Fri., 10/21 *Politics*, book 3

Mon., 10/24 *Politics*, book 4

Wed., 10/26 *Politics*, book 5

Fri., 10/28 *Politics*, book 6

Mon., 10/31 *Politics*, book 7

Wed., 11/2 *Politics*, book 8

Fri., 11/4 **EXAM** on Aristotle, *Politics*

### IV. AUGUSTINE: Political Theology

Mon., 11/7 Augustine, *City of God*, book I (entire)

Wed., 11/9 *City of God*, book II.1-2, 11-14, 18-24, 28-29 (pp. 48-50, 59-65, 67-81, 85-88); book IV.1-7, 12-15, 27-34 (pp. 135-143, 152-155, 168-178)

Fri., 11/11 *City of God*, book V.9-26 (pp. 190-224); book VIII.1-12 (pp. 298-316)

Mon., 11/14 *City of God*, book XI.16-28 (pp. 447-463); book XII.22 (pp. 502-508); book XIII.1-8, 17-24 (pp. 510-517, 531-546)

Wed., 11/16 *City of God*, book XIV (entire)

Fri., 11/18 *City of God*, book XV.1-5, 16-17, 27 (pp. 595-603, 623-627, 645-648); book XVII.1-3 (pp. 711-715); book XVIII.1-2, 8-9, 41, 47-54 (pp. 761-765, 769-772, 815-819, 828-842)

Mon., 11/21 *City of God*, book XIX (entire)

Wed., 11/23 *City of God*, book XX.1-2 (pp. 895-898); book XXI.5-7, 11-15 (pp. 971-979, 987-993); book XXII.6-8, 24-30 (pp. 1039-1047, 1070-1091)

[THANKSGIVING BREAK]

### V. MORE: Utopia

Mon., 11/28 More, *Utopia*, Letter to Giles, Book I (pp. 13-45)

Wed., 11/30 *Utopia*, Book II (pp. 48-76)

Fri., 12/2 *Utopia*, Book II (pp. 76-102)

**FINAL EXAMINATION** (Wednesday, December 7, 3:00-5:00 pm)