

Classics of Social and Political Thought I

Social Sciences (SOSC) 15100

Location/Time

Cobb Hall 119
Tue/Thu, 12:30-1:50pm

Instructor

Sarita Zaffini

Email

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Office Location

Booth Business School
(Atrium)

Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-11:45am,
or by appointment

Course Overview

The classic texts presented in this class range over nearly two millennia of social and political thought: we will read two ancient philosophers, two medieval scholastics, and one late-renaissance diplomat. All of them contributed perceptive (if not original) theories on justice, law, and social goods such as stability, freedom, harmony, and happiness. Encountering these early arguments and wrestling with their claims will help us understand the problems and solutions of an older world, while simultaneously challenging and sharpening those of our own.

Required Texts

Plato, *The Republic of Plato*, trans. Bloom (Basic Books)
Aristotle, *The Politics*, trans. Reeve (Hackett)
John of Salisbury, *Policraticus*, trans. Dickinson (on Chalk)
Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics*, ed. Baumgarth & Regan, 2nd ed. (Hackett)
Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Mansfield, 2nd ed. (Chicago)

Written Assignments

- Two papers (from an option of three), between 1000-1200 words: the first, after Plato (due by midnight, October 19th), the second, Aristotle (due November 2nd), and the third, after the medievals (due November 21st).
- Summary/analysis of one reading, 2-3 pages in length. Due in class on the discussion date for that reading.

Attendance and Participation

Dynamic, classroom learning works best when we are all present! More than two unexcused absences will negatively affect your participation grade, and likely, your performance in the class as a whole. Please show up on time, and be prepared for thoughtful, enthusiastic engagement with the text and your peers.

Grade Distribution

15% Participation (including one summary)

50% Papers (two, at 25% each)

35% Final Exam (in class, Tuesday December 11th, 1:30-3:30pm)

Course Schedule

Plato	October 2 nd , Tuesday:	Introduction, no reading
	October 4 th , Thursday:	<i>Republic</i> , Book I
	October 9 th , Tuesday:	Books II and III
	October 11 th , Thursday:	Book IV and Book V (through page 135)
	October 16 th , Tuesday:	Book V (from page 135), Book VI, and Book VII (through page 200)
	October 18 th , Thursday:	Book IX
Aristotle	October 23 rd , Tuesday:	<i>Politics</i> , Book I and Book II.1-5,7
	October 25 th , Thursday:	Book III
	October 30 th , Tuesday:	Book IV.1-12, Book V.1,5-9,11, and Book VI.1-5
	November 1 st , Thursday:	Book VII and Book VIII.1-2
Salisbury	November 6 th , Tuesday:	<i>Policraticus</i> , (Chalk)
	November 8 th , Thursday:	(Chalk)
	November 13 th , Tuesday:	(Chalk), and Aquinas, <i>On Kingship</i> (pp. 203-210)
Aquinas	November 15 th , Thursday:	<i>Summa</i> , I-I.1 (Chalk), and I-II.90-95 (pp. 10-59)
	November 20 th , Tuesday:	I-II.96-97,105 and II-II.58,104 (pp. 59-75, 93-96; 105-123; 182-189)
	November 22 nd , Thursday:	THANKSGIVING, no class
Machiavelli	November 27 th , Tuesday:	Letter to Vettori (pp. 107-111) and <i>The Prince</i> , Chapters I-VIII (pp. 3-38)
	November 29 th , Thursday:	Chapters IX-XVII (pp.38-68)
	December 4 th , Tuesday:	Chapters XVIII-XXVI (pp.68-111)
	December 6 th , Thursday:	READING PERIOD, no class