

VIRTUE AND GLORY: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THEORY

Fall 2011

Mon., Wed. 1:10 – 2:30 p.m.
Room 104 PAC

Office: 310 PAC, x 2489

Hours: Mon. 3–4 p.m., Tues. 1:30-2:00 p.m.,
Thurs. 4-5 p.m., & by appointment

This course is part of our three-course unit, Govt. 337, 338 and 339, on Classical, Modern, and Contemporary Political Theory. In "Virtue and Glory" we will survey some of the major classical political theorists, giving attention to their theoretical innovations, historical contexts, and relevance for today.

Texts: The following books are required for purchase:

Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, trans. Martin Ostwald (Prentice Hall, Pearson Education)
 Aristotle, Politics, trans. Carnes Lord (University of Chicago)
 Saint Augustine, The Essential Augustine, ed. Vernon Bourke (Hackett)
 Dino Bigongiari, ed., The Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas (Free Press)
 Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince, trans. C. Gauss/L. Ricci (Signet Classics, Penguin)
 Joshua Parens and Joseph C. Macfarland, eds., Medieval Political Philosophy. A Sourcebook,
 2nd ed. (Cornell University Press)
 Plato, The Republic, trans. and ed. F. M. Cornford (Oxford University Press)
 Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates, trans. G. M. A. Grube, 3rd ed., rev. John Cooper (Hackett)

These books are optional to buy:

Holy Bible: Revised Standard Version (Meridian, Penguin Group), OR
HarperCollins Study Bible: New Revised Standard Version (HarperCollins)

Readings on Reserve:

Copies of books on the syllabus are available on 4-hour reserve at Olin library. Readings listed are required except for those in parentheses, which are optional; readings marked passim can be skimmed. Articles and some book chapters are available through ERes, electronic reserve, or I will provide an on-line address. Assignments will also be made to George Sabine (and Thomas Thorson), A History of Political Theory, 4th ed. (The 3rd ed. has the assigned chapters, one number lower, e.g. Ch.18= Ch. 17). For additional background and commentary, see Sheldon Wolin, Politics and Vision, Isaac Kramnick, ed., Essays in the History of Political Thought, Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue, Arlene Saxonhouse, Women in the History of Political Thought, Isadore Twersky, ed., A Maimonides Reader, and the New Oxford Annotated Bible.

Requirements:

Readings completed by the date for which they are assigned. One essay (2-3 pp.), due Friday, Sept. 23. Mid-term quiz, Monday, Oct. 31. Second paper (3-5 pp.), due Monday, Nov. 21. Paper topics to be announced in class. Final exam.

Samuel Ebb will serve as Teaching Apprentice and is available to help with the assignments, as an I.

Syllabus

- Sept. 5 Introduction
- I. Citizens and Political Philosophy in Ancient Greece
A. City-State
- Sept. 7 Plato, Apology and Crito (and Phaedo, 114d-118)
- Thucydides, Funeral Oration of Pericles, History of the Peloponnesian War, trans. Richard Crawley, Bk. II, Chs. 34-46
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp>
- (George Sabine and Thomas Thorson, A History of Political Theory, Ch. 2, "The City-State," and Ch. 3, "Political Thought Before Plato")
- B. Eros and Justice; Knowledge and Political Rule
- Sept. 12 Plato, Republic, Book I
- John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical," in Shlomo Avineri and Avner de-Shalit, eds., Communitarianism and Individualism, pp. 186-204
- Sept. 14 Plato, Republic, Bks. II-IV
- (Sabine, Ch. 4, "Plato, the Republic")
- Sept. 19 Plato, Republic, Bks. V-VII
- (Arlene Saxonhouse, Women in the History of Political Thought, Ch. 2 passim., and in Ch. 3, pp. 37-52)
- Sept. 21 Plato, Republic, Bks. VIII-IX, (X)
- (Sheldon Wolin, Politics and Vision, Ch. 2, "Plato: Political Philosophy versus Politics")
- Sept. 23 ESSAY DUE

C. Friendship and Justice; Constitutions and Political Institutions

- Sept. 26 Aristotle, Politics, Book 1; Bk. 2, Chs. 1-5, (Ch. 6 passim.)
 (Wolin, Ch. 1, "Political Philosophy and Philosophy")
 (Robin Schott, "On Aristotle, On Women," Yale University, 1979, unpub.)
- Sept. 28 Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1; Bk. 5
 Alasdair MacIntyre, "Justice as a Virtue: Changing Conceptions," in Avineri and de-Shalit, eds., Communitarianism and Individualism, pp. 51-64
- Oct. 3 Aristotle, Politics, Bk. 3; Bk. 4, Chs. 1-13; 14-16 passim.
 (Sabine, Ch. 6, "Aristotle: Political Ideals")
- Oct. 5 Aristotle, Politics, Bk. 5, Chs. 1-4; Bk. 6, Chs. 1-5; Bk. 7, Chs. 1-15; 16-17 passim.
 (Sabine, Ch. 7, "Aristotle: Political Actualities")
 (William Bluhm, "Immanent Good: Aristotle's Quest for the Best Regime," in Isaac Kramnick, ed., Essays in the History of Political Thought, pp. 61-82)
- Oct. 10 Aristotle, Ethics, Bks. 2-4 passim.; (Bk. 6); Bks. 8-9
 (Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue, Chs. 10-11, "The Virtues in Heroic Societies" and "The Virtues at Athens" passim., Ch. 12, "Aristotle's Account of the Virtues")
- II. Monotheism and Medieval Political Philosophy
- A. Early Christianity: Creation, Sin, and Grace
- Oct. 12 Augustine, The Essential Augustine, Chs. VII, "The Moral and Religious Life," (VIII, "Dimensions of Grace," passim.)
 (Herbert Deane, "The Political and Social Ideas of St. Augustine," in Kramnick, ed., pp. 85-96)
 (Sabine, Ch. 11, "Seneca and the Fathers of the Church")

Oct. 17 Augustine, Ch. IX, "The Two Cities"

Bible, Genesis 1-4; 6.1-10; 11.1-9; 16-17; 21.1-21; 25; 27

B. Islam: Prophecy and Law

Oct. 19 Alfarabi, "The Enumeration of the Sciences," pp. 18-m.21; "The Political Regime," pp. 36-46, (46-55); "The Attainment of Happiness," secs. 3 & 4, pp. 56, 63-71; "Plato's Laws," [Intro.], pp. 72-73, in Parens and Macfarland, eds., Medieval Political Philosophy. A Sourcebook

Oct. 26 Avicenna, "On the Divisions of the Rational Sciences," "Healing: Metaphysics 10," in Parens and Macfarland, eds., pp. 74-88

Oct. 31 Averroes, "The Decisive Treatise," in Parens and Macfarland, pp. 123-140; (General biblio. pp. 141-143)

Oct. 31 QUIZ

C. Judaism: Political Founding and Legislation

Nov. 2 Maimonides, Excerpts from "Logic," "Guide of the Perplexed," and "Eight Chapters," in Parens and Macfarland, pp. 180-205
(Maimonides, "Eight Chapters," in Isadore Twersky, ed., A Maimonides Reader, pp. 361-386)

Nov. 7 Maimonides, "Letter on Astrology," in Parens & Macfarland, eds., pp. 206-207, and "Helek: Sanhedrin, Chapter Ten," in Twersky, ed., pp. 410-417

Bible, Genesis 9.1-17; 15.7-20; 17.1-27
Exodus 19-23.22; 32
I Samuel 8; 12; II Samuel 5.1-5; 8.15

(cont.)

D. Reconciling Reason and RevelationNatural Law

Nov. 9 Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica, I-II, Ques. 90; 91; 93, arts. 1-3, 6; Q. 94, arts. 4, 6; Q. 95, art. 1; Q. 96, (Q. 97), in Dino Bigongiari, ed.

(A.P. d'Entreves, "Thomas Aquinas," in Kramnick, ed., Essays in the History of Political Thought, pp. 97-108)

Kingship

Nov. 14 Aquinas, De Regimine Principum, Bk. I, Chs. 1, 2, in Bigongiari, ed., and Chs. 7, 14, 15 (xerox); Summa Theol., I-II, Ques. 105; II-II, Q. 57, arts. 2-4; Q. 58; Q. 104, arts. 1, 5-6; Q. 42, art. 2; Q. 66, arts 2, 7; Q. 78, art. 1

(Sabine, Ch. 14, "Universitas Hominum")

IV. Breakdown of the Medieval SynthesisA. Glory at Rome

Nov. 16 Plutarch, "Caesar," in Plutarch's Lives. The Dyden Plutarch, rev. A. H. Clough, pp. 530-581

B. Custom and Statute

Nov. 21 (Sabine, Ch. 12, "The Folk and Its Law")

John Fortescue, "On the Merits of the Laws of England," in Ralph Lerner and Muhsin Mahdi, eds., Medieval Political Philosophy (1972). pp. 507-526

Nov. 21 PAPER DUE

C. Church, State and Empire

Nov. 28 (John Morrall, Political Thought in Medieval Times, Chs. 1-2, "What Was 'Medieval' Political Thought?" and "Church, Empire, and Barbarians")

Dante Alighieri, "On Monarchy," in Pares and Macfarland, pp. 360-375

Nov. 30 Marsilius of Padua, "The Defender of the Peace," in Parens and Macfarland, pp. 376-378; Discourse 1, Ch. 3, 382-383 (Chs. 4-5, 383-388); Chs. 6-7, 388-391; Ch. 9, secs. 1-9, 392-395; Chs. 10-11, 12, secs. 1-5, 395-402; Ch. 13, secs. 1-7, 403-406; Discourse 2, Ch. 12, secs. 3-7, 407-408; 379 n.7.

(Sabine, Chs. 16-17, "Marsilio of Padua and William of Occam," & "The Conciliar Theory of Church Government")

D. Civic Humanism and Leadership: Earthly Glory

Dec. 5, 7 Machiavelli, The Prince

(Sabine, Ch. 18, "Machiavelli")