

Syllabus
PLS 313 - Early Political Thought
Fall Semester 2008

Instructor: Dr. Earl Sheridan

Office: Leutze Hall Rm. 269

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:00; Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

Course Description

To look at the major political philosophers and movements of the ancient and medieval eras. We will explore these political philosophies, the historical conditions that generated them, and look at the implications these political philosophies have for us today. We shall be looking at such political philosophers as: Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, St. Augustine, and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Textbooks

Inventors of Ideas, Tannenbaum & Schultz; Plato's Republic, Cornford, ed. Also certain material on reserve in the library, as well as possibly some video material.

Course Requirements

Three exams and one term paper. Exams will be short answer and essay type. Term paper should be 8-10 pages in length, typed and double-spaced. It must include citations and a bibliography. Term paper must be on some aspect of early political thought. It can be on the political thought of a person movement or on some concept of importance in the ancient and medieval eras. Paper is due Thursday, November 20th. 5 points will be taken off for each day a paper is late.

Grading

Grading is as follows: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D and below 60=F. Each exam will count 100 points each. the paper will count 50 points. 50 points will be given for class participation for a total of 400 points. This will be averaged by 4 to get your final grade. Class participation means being in class, taking part in general class discussions, discussing assigned readings and your grade on possible pop tests or pop essays.

Make-up Tests

Make-up tests will only be given with an acceptable written excuse. If you are sick, you should present a written doctor's excuse or something similar. Tests not made up will result in a zero.

Attendance & Classroom Etiquette

Attendance will be taken. You have three un-excused absences. For every un-excused absence over three, four points will be deducted from your participation grade. Excused absences will only be given for extraordinary situations, such as serious illness, death in the family etc. I must receive a written excuse. If you come in late to class it is up to **you** to make sure I have you marked as present at the end of the class period. Come to class on time. It is disruptive to have people coming in and out once class has begun. If you must leave early, please let me know ahead of time unless it is an emergency. Being present means being in class the whole time. Students should not engage in extraneous conversations in class or do outside homework. Breaches of classroom etiquette could affect your participation grade.

Course Outline

Wiser, Chapters 1-2; Tannenbaum & Schultz, Chapters 1-4; The Republic

Wiser Chapters 3-4; Tannenbaum & Schultz Chapters 5 & 6

Wiser Chapter 5; Tannenbaum & Schultz Chapters 7 & 8

First Exam

Second Exam

Final Exam

(Dec. 9th, 11:30am)