

PS 212a/191. Plato, Aristotle, Cicero
Spring 2022
2 hour seminar (Friday 3.30-5.30pm)

This course is an opportunity to read, or to re-read, the most significant political statements of three foundational figures in the Western political tradition, paying due attention to both historical context and philosophical argument. It also aims to stimulate reflection on key elements of the modern political lexicon (e.g. politics, democracy, republic, justice, citizenship) by engaging with their Greek and Latin origins. Of particular interest will be conceptualizations of and relationships between a) the good (*to agathon*), the just (*to dikaion*), the common (*koinon*), and the advantageous (*to sympheron*), and b) the honourable (*honestas*) and the useful (*utilitas*).

The course is primarily aimed at graduate students preparing for the Political Theory comprehensive exam, but qualified, advanced undergraduates majoring in Political Science, Classics, Philosophy or related fields are also very welcome to enrol with permission of the instructor. Please apply by email to daniela.cammack@berkeley.edu. Attach your transcript and a writing sample and be prepared for a 15-minute zoom interview. Auditors are also very welcome, although in order to secure a large enough classroom, I'd appreciate it if those who can enrol Sat/Unsat could do so.

Requirements for Satisfactory enrolment are a weekly 200-word (max) forum post reflecting on the readings and class engagement. Requirements for a letter grade are the same (20%), plus 20-25 pages of writing in the form of either two short papers (35/45%) or one longer one (80%). All writing options will be pursued under the close and enthusiastic supervision of the instructor.

1. Ps-Xenophon, "Constitution of the Athenians"
Plato, *Apology* (both provided on bCourses)
2. Plato, *Republic* I-V (Loeb ed., trans. Emlyn-Jones and Preddy)
3. Plato, *Republic* VI-X
4. Plato, *Statesman* (Loeb ed.)
5. Plato, *Laws* I-VI (Loeb ed., trans. Bury)
6. Plato, *Laws* VII-XII
7. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I-V (Loeb ed., trans. Rackham)

[For those taking the two-paper option: paper 1 due]

8. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* VI-X
9. Aristotle, *Politics* I-IV (Loeb ed., trans. Rackham)

Ps-Aristotle, *Constitution of the Athenians* (Penguin ed. by Peter Rhodes)

10. Aristotle, *Politics* V-VIII

11. Aristotle, *Rhetoric* Book I (Loeb ed., trans. Freese)

12. Cicero, *De Re Publica* (Loeb ed., trans. Keyes)

Additional reading: Polybius, *History* Book VI (Loeb)

[For those writing one long paper, memo due 11pm]

13. Cicero, *De Legibus* (Loeb ed., trans. Keyes)

14. Cicero, *De Officiis* (Loeb ed., trans. Miller)

[Final papers due]

Expectations

- Attendance at all meetings is required.
- I'd prefer no laptops or other electronic devices in class. Speak to me if in any week you're using an electronic text.
- I'd like to see everyone for a 20 minute meeting at some point in the first 3 weeks of the semester (preferably in office hours, but if you can't make it then we can set up another time). A sign-up sheet will be available in class.

Forum responses

- Using the bCourses Discussions feature, please submit a brief response (max 150 words) to the reading assignment no later than 11am on the day of class.
- You should use this as an opportunity to draw attention to anything you have found striking, puzzling or intriguing about the texts; raise any questions you'd like us to discuss; and/or try out ideas you may wish to write about at greater length.
- I will use these responses to help shape our time together. Be prepared for me to ask you to elaborate on any points you raise, and aim to read others' offerings before we meet.

Evaluation

- Forum responses: 10%
- Class engagement: 10%
- 20-25pp. of writing: 80%

You have two writing options, to be chosen and pursued in consultation with me:

1. Two 10-12pp. papers, worth 35/45% of your grade
2. One 20-25pp. paper.

Texts

We will be using the Loeb series of *en face* translations, so we can check the Greek and Latin vocabulary as we go. I recommend either buying or borrowing your own hard copies of these texts and bringing them to class with you.

The entire Loeb collection is now also available online (via the UC library catalogue). This is one way to do the reading, but not ideal since although you can save texts and your annotations to your personal account, you can't—I believe; let me know if I'm wrong—download anything or print it out, and I don't want us using laptops / tablets in class as they can be distracting. However, the Loeb online is an amazing resource and I encourage you to explore it when you have a chance.

The Perseus collection, at www.perseus.tufts.edu, is another wonderful tool. It's been partly superseded by the Loeb online, but it too contains many of our texts, in both English and Greek/Latin versions (often older Loeb translations), and it has three useful features. First, it's all printable / copiable text. Second, if you display the Greek alongside the English, you can click on words and pull up their entries in the lexicon, as well as statistics about word frequency and so on. Third, you can find specific lines much more easily in Perseus than in the Loeb online, which is currently only searchable using page numbers in the Loeb print edition. If you don't know those, it really slows you down.

Historical context: optional reading suggestions

Mogens Hansen, *Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes* (Norman OK, 1999)

Eric Robinson, *Democracy beyond Athens* (Cambridge, 2011)

W.G. Forrest, *Emergence of Greek Democracy* (New York, 1966)

W.G. Forrest, *A History of Sparta* (Bristol Classical Reprints, 1995 [1968])

Andrew Lintott, *The Constitution of the Roman Republic* (Oxford, 1999)

Fergus Millar, *The Crowd in Rome in the Late Republic* (University of Michigan, 1998)

Fergus Millar, *The Roman Republic in Political Thought* (University Press of New England, 2002)

Just for fun: even more optional reading suggestions

José Carlos Somoza, *The Athenian Murders* (2003)

Robert Harris's Cicero Trilogy: *Imperium* (2006), *Lustrum* (2009) [pub. as *Conspirata* in US], *Dictator* (2015)