

University of California, San Diego
Department of Political Science
Fall, 2010
W 1:30-4

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Harvey Goldman
SSB 468
x4-4627
Ofc Hrs:
M 1:15-3:00
F 1:15-3:00

POLITICAL SCIENCE 210 A

Systems of Political Thought: Thucydides to Augustine

TEXTBOOKS:

Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War, ed. Wick
(McGraw-Hill)
Plato, Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, trans. Church
(Prentice-Hall)
Plato, Gorgias (Penguin)
Plato, Republic, trans. Reeve (Hackett)
Aristotle, The Politics, trans. Barker (Oxford)
Cicero, On the Good Life, trans. Grant (Penguin)
The Holy Bible (World Bible)
Saint Augustine, The City of God,
trans. Bettenson (Penguin)
or ed. Dyson (Cambridge)

This course deals with the development of European political thought from ancient Greece to Christianity at the close of the Roman Empire. It is meant to be both historical and conceptual in its approach, and will refer at time to literary works for insights into the culture of politics. Topics to be addressed include: transitions from aristocratic societies to more democratic polities, the emergence of concepts of justice and law, the nature of political judgment and sound leadership, and the relation to politics of self, religion, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Requirements: 20-25 page essay on one of the figures or themes we treat in the course.

Weeks 1-2: POWER, POLITICAL JUDGMENT, AND DEMOCRACY - THUCYDIDES**Required:**

Thucydides, Peloponnesian War

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|------|------------------------|
| I | |
| II | 1-70 |
| III | 1-90 |
| IV | 1-88, 103-19 |
| V | 1-26, 42-48, 84-116 |
| VI | 1-42, 53, 60-61, 72-93 |
| VII | 52-87 |
| VIII | 1-4, 24-27, 45-109 |

Secondary Sources:

Werner Jaeger, "Thucydides, Political Philosopher,"
in Jaeger, Paideia, volume 1
Victor Ehrenburg, "The Polis," in Ehrenburg,
The Greek State

Weeks 3-6: PHILOSOPHY, JUSTICE, AND THE CITY WITHIN - PLATO**Required:**

Plato, Euthyphro, Apology, Crito
-----, Gorgias
-----, Republic

Secondary Sources:

Walter Burkert, "Philosophical Religion," in Burkert,
Greek Religion
Eric Havelock, "Plato on Poetry," and "'The Supreme
Music is Philosophy,'" in Havelock,
Preface to Plato
E. R. Dodds, "Plato, the Irrational Soul, and the
Inherited Conglomerate," in Dodds, The Greeks and
the Irrational

Weeks 7-8: THE IDEAL AND THE VARIETIES OF POLITICS - ARISTOTLE

Required:

Aristotle, Politics

Secondary Sources:

Werner Jaeger, "The Original Politics,"
in Jaeger, Aristotle
Bernard Yack, "Community," and "Political Community",
in Yack, The Problems of a Political Animal

Week 9: STOICISM AND THE ROMAN CONSTITUTION - CICERO AND SENECA

Required:

Cicero, On the Good Life,
"Discussions at Tusculum," 52-116
"On Duties," pp. 120-171
"On the Orator," 228-336
"The Dream of Scipio," 341-355

Seneca, "On Mercy" (De Clementia),
http://www.stoics.com/seneca_essays_book_1.html#MERCY1

Secondary Sources:

E. M. Atkins, "Cicero," and Miriam Griffin, "Seneca and
Pliny", in Cambridge History of Greek and Roman
Political Thought
Sheldon Wolin, "The Age of Empire," in Wolin,
Politics and Vision

Week 10: HEBREWS, CHRISTIANS, AND POLITICS

Required:

Hebrew Bible, Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy 4,
Isaiah 44-66

New Testament, Matthew, Romans, Galatians,
I Corinthians

Augustine, City of God

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| I | 1, 9-11, 29-31, 33-36 |
| II | 4-7, 19-22 |
| III | 1, 15, |
| IV | 1-4, 8-12, 15, 30, 34 |
| V | Preface, 1, 8-17, 19-21, 24 |
| VIII | 1-12 |
| IX | 4-5 |
| X | 1-3, 25, 29 |
| XI | 1-5 |
| XIV | 1-5, 8-9, 28 |
| XVII | 1-3 |
| XVIII | 1, 2, 41-43, 46-47 |
| XIX | 4-8, 11-18, 20-22, 24-28 |
| XX | 1, 2 |
| XXII | 6, 7 |

Secondary Sources:

Peter Brown, Chapters 25-27, from Augustine of Hippo
Sheldon Wolin, "The Early Christian Era," from
Politics and Vision

ANCIENT GREECE:

For classical texts, in English and original languages see
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/>
<http://books.mirror.org/gb.home.html>
<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.html>

Historical Works

There are many useful histories of Greece, among them J. B. Bury and Russell Meiggs, A History of Greece and Raphael Sealey, A History of the Greek City-State. A newer one is John V. A. Fine, The Ancient Greeks. Briefer is A. R. Burn, The Pelican History of Greece. On the fifth century, see the work of Alfred Zimmern, The Greek Commonwealth, also Victor Ehrenburg, From Solon to Socrates. G. E. M. de Ste Croix, The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World is a valuable social history, as is Anthony Andrewes, Greek Society. W. G. Forrest, The Emergence of Greek Democracy is very good on the seventh and sixth centuries, while J. de Romilly, Problèmes de la démocratie grecque is brief and incisive. Michael Gagarin, Early Greek Law is a brief work on an important topic. For more social history, see M. I. Finley, The Ancient Economy. N. Fustel de Coulanges, The Ancient City, remains an interesting classic. For a brilliant controversial work linking Greece to Semitic and African civilizations, see Martin Bernal, Black Athena.

See also the Internet Ancient History Sourcebook, at
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/asbook.html>

Intellectual and Cultural Background

For general intellectual background, there is no better work than Werner Jaeger, Paideia: The Ideals of Greek Culture. Volume I deals with heroic Greece to the fifth century, while volumes II and III deal in depth with Plato and a few other 4th-century figures. For the literary tradition, see Albin Lesky, A History of Greek Literature and Charles Rowan Beye, Ancient Greek Literature and Society. Bruno Snell, The Discovery of the Mind is an imaginative treatment of the innovations of Greek culture. On a more introductory level are C. M. Bowra, The Greek Experience, H. D. F. Kitto, The Greeks, and R. Littman, The Greek Experiment. Other introductory works on the fifth century are C. M. Bowra, Periclean Athens, T. B. L. Webster, Athenian Culture and Society, and Webster, Daily Life in Classical Athens. E. R. Dodds, The Greeks and the Irrational explores how the Greeks understood and dealt with the complex power of their inner life. On the centrality of myth, see G. S. Kirk, The Nature of Greek Myths. On religion, Walter Burkert, Greek Religion. See also the older works of M. Nilsson, A History of Greek Religion, and

The Mycenaean Origin of Greek Mythology. See also W. K. C. Guthrie, The Greeks and their Gods.

Greek Political Thought

On ancient political thought, T. A. Sinclair, History of Greek Political Thought, is simply outstanding. A. W. H. Adkins, Moral Values and Political Behavior in Ancient Greece is also good. Susan Okin, Women in Western Political Thought is valuable on the Greek understanding of women. There is a new work by Christian Meier, Athens: A Portrait of the City in its Golden Age, as well as his earlier The Greek Discovery of Politics. See also J. Peter Euben, The Tragedy of Political Theory. A classic is Ernest Barker, Greek Political Theory. Martha Nussbaum, The Fragility of Goodness weaves together literary, cultural, and philosophical themes. See Victor Ehrenburg, The Greek State, on the organization of politics. On the links between literature and political theory, see J. Peter Euben, ed., Greek Tragedy and Political Theory. An idiosyncratic but ingenious work is Eric Havelock, The Liberal Temper in Greek Politics. Insightful and complex is Eric Voegelin, The World of the Polis. Two standard works on the history of political theory are George Sabine, A History of Political Thought, and Sheldon Wolin, Politics and Vision.

Greek Tragedy:

On the nature and origin of tragedy, see Gerald Else, The Origin and Early Form of Greek Tragedy. On the practice of the theater, see H. C. Baldry, The Greek Tragic Theater. For a more comprehensive work, see H. D. F. Kitto, Greek Tragedy. Provocative and fascinating is Jan Kott, The Eating of the Gods. On the social meanings of Aeschylus, see George Thomson, Aeschylus and Athens. See also Jaeger's chapter on Aeschylus in Paideia, volume I. The great contemporary commentator on Sophocles is Bernard Knox, whose Oedipus at Thebes and The Heroic Temper are the best works to read. See also chapters in Kitto, Greek Tragedy and Jaeger, Paideia, volume I. Hegel discusses Antigone in his Phenomenology of Spirit.

Thucydides:

Francis Cornford, Thucydides Mythistoricus makes a fascinating argument for the link between Thucydides' history and tragedy, as does J. H. Finley, Three Essays on Thucydides [both at - <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Thucydides/>]. On Thucydides as "scientific" historian, see C. N. Cochrane, Thucydides and the Science of History. On the milieu in which Cleon developed and the Greek client system emerged, see R. Connor, The New Politicians of Fifth Century Athens and his more recent Thucydides. Hobbes introduction to his translation of Thucydides

illuminates both theorists. His comments on Thucydides' life are also at the site noted above.

Plato:

W. K. C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy, in many volumes, has volumes on Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. See Sheldon Wolin, Politics and Vision, chapter 2, on Plato. Jaeger, Paideia, volumes II and III, contain lengthy interpretations of Plato's works, including an outstanding commentary on the Republic. Paul Friedlaender, Plato: An Introduction, volume 1, is a long introductory work, including a debate with Heidegger. Volumes 2 and 3 have excellent commentary and interpretation of individual dialogues. Eric Havelock, A Preface to Plato discusses the relation of Plato to the oral and literary culture he opposed. Barker, Greek Political Theory and The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle contain useful material. J. N. Findlay, Plato and Platonism discusses the more mystical teachings and influences of Plato's work. Guthrie, Socrates, is also useful. Foucault, The Uses of Pleasure discusses the Symposium and the significance of the role of the teacher-master in Plato.

On Plato and mathematics, <http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Plato.html>

Aristotle:

Ernest Barker's introduction to his edition of the Politics (Oxford) is excellent. See also the relevant chapters in his Greek Political Theory and The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle. E. Voegelin, Plato and Aristotle is imaginative, insightful, and rich. W. D. Ross, Aristotle and J. H. Randall, Aristotle are standard works of reference. Now there is Bernard Yack, The Problems of a Political Animal.

ROMAN AND CHRISTIAN THOUGHT:

Cicero, Stoicism, and Rome:

On Rome, see Ronald Syme, The Roman Revolution, and Erich Gruen, The Last Generation of the Roman Republic. For the life of Cicero and other actors in the late Republic, there are Plutarch's biographies in Plutarch: The Fall of the Roman Empire. See also D.L. Stockton, Cicero: A Political Biography and E. D. Rawson, Cicero a Portrait. On Cicero's political thought, see the outstanding introduction to their edition of Cicero's On the Republic by George H. Sabine and Stanley B. Smith (Bobbs-Merrill). M. T. Griffin and E. M. Atkins have a good introduction to their edition of On Duties (Cambridge), as does

James Zetzel to his edition of the Republic and the Laws (Cambridge).

Most of the work on Seneca deals with his tragedies, which used to be extremely influential. For political thought, see the introduction to the Cambridge collection: Seneca, Moral and Political Essays. There is also Miriam Griffin, Seneca: A Philosopher in Politics, but it is a very difficult read.

Religion and Political Thought

On Jewish political thought, see The Jewish Political Tradition, 2 volumes, edited by Michael Walzer, Menachem Lorberbaum, Noam Zohar.

On medieval political thought, see E. Gilson, A History of Christian Philosophy in the Middle Ages, A. Passerin d'Entreves, The Medieval Contribution to Political Thought,

For background to Augustine, see Peter Brown, The Age of Late Antiquity. C. N. Cochrane, Christianity and Classical Culture, is on the classical foundations of Augustinianism. Peter Brown, Augustine of Hippo, is a wonderful, extraordinary biography of Augustine. Herbert Deane, The Political and Social Ideas of St. Augustine, is the basic work on the subject. Sheldon Wolin, Politics and Vision, has a valuable chapter on Christian thought, including Augustine and Aquinas. See also Etienne Gilson, The Christian Philosophy of Saint Augustine, trans L.E.M. Lynch.