

Daniela Cammack

Office hours: Any day, as needed. Please make an appointment! (Barrows 750B)

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History of Political Thought: Ancient and Medieval

Graduate seminar

Thursdays, 4-6pm

This course explores the political thought of the ancient Greeks, Romans, and early and medieval Christians from Plato to Marsilius. The emphasis is on canonical texts likely to be of most use to those preparing to teach in this or related fields, but anyone curious about the politics or the philosophy of these periods is encouraged to enrol. No Greek or Latin is assumed, though we will be attentive to original terminology and key terms will be taught and discussed throughout the course. Historical context will be supplied by the instructor and by additional recommended readings if desired.

Requirements are a short (maximum 200 word) weekly forum post and a choice of either 3 short papers (6-8 pp), 2 medium-length ones (8-12pp), or one longer paper (c. 25 pp). Qualified undergraduates are welcome with permission of the instructor.

1. Thurs, Aug 29. Introduction. Pseudo-Xenophon, *Constitution of the Athenians*
2. Thurs, Sep 5. Plato, *Republic* I-IV
3. Thurs, Sep 12. Plato, *Republic* V-X
4. Thurs, Sep 19. Plato, *Laws* I-VI
5. Thurs, Sep 26. Plato, *Laws* VII-XII

[for those taking the 3-paper option: paper 1 due Sunday, Sep 29, 11pm]

1. Thurs, Oct 3. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I-V
2. Thurs, Oct 10. CLASS CANCELLED
3. Thurs, Oct 17. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* VI-X

[for those taking the 2-paper option: paper 1 due Sunday, Oct 20, 11pm]

1. TUES, Oct 22, 5-7pm. Aristotle, *Politics* I-III
2. TUES, Oct 29, 3-4pm and 4-5pm. Aristotle, *Politics* I-III make-up sessions.
3. Thurs, Oct 31. Aristotle, *Politics* IV-VIII
4. Thurs, Nov 7. ** NO CLASS **

5. TUES, Nov 12. Epicureans, stoics, skeptics, including Lactantius extract on Carneades (selections available on the course website).
6. Thurs, Nov 14. Cicero, *Republic* and *Laws*.

[for those taking the 3-paper option: paper 2 due Sunday, Nov 17, 11pm]

1. Thurs, Nov 21. Cicero, *On Duties*.
2. Thurs, Dec 5. Lactantius, *Divine Institutes* extract. Augustine, *City of God*, books tbd
3. Thurs, Dec 12. Aquinas, *Political Writings* (Hackett); Marsilius of Padua, *Defensor Pacis* extracts. (followed by wrap-up dinner & discussion)

[All final papers due Friday, Dec 20, 11pm]

Expectations

- Attendance at all sessions is required.
- I prefer no laptops or other electronic devices in class, but you may email me for permission if you'd like to use one for any reason.
- I'd like to see everyone for a 20 minute meeting at some point in the first 2 weeks of the semester. A sign-up sheet will be available in class.
- Papers should be submitted to me by email on the date due. I will grant 48 hour extensions to anyone that asks for one; more than 48 hours needs a bit more discussion and, if appropriate, documentation.

Evaluation

- Seminar participation (10%)
- Weekly forum response (10%)
- c. 25pp writing (80%), either 3 short papers, 2 medium-length ones or one long one. Topics and questions to be determined in consultation with the instructor.

Texts

You have some options when it comes to sourcing texts. I'll be using the Loeb editions for the Greek and Roman material, the Hackett readers for Hellenistic philosophy and Aquinas, and the Cambridge translations of Augustine and Marsilius. The relevant sections of Lactantius' *Divine Institutes* (ed. Peter Garnsey) will be posted to the class website. You may want to buy or borrow your own copies of these texts. If you don't mind reading online, the Loeb's are also publicly available via Perseus and the Loeb online library (via the UC library site). But if you already own other editions of any of this material, feel free to use them. It is often helpful to have more than one translation available in class.