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PS 214a. Aristotle's *Politics*

Fall 2021. 3-hour graduate seminar. Thursdays 2-5pm.
Prof. Daniela Cammack and Kinch Hoekstra

In this course, we'll read the whole of Aristotle's *Politics*, spending two weeks on each book (combining Books VII and VIII for this purpose). Prior knowledge of ancient Greek is not necessary, although we'll have the original on hand and will be discussing the meaning of the Greek as we go. This will be a communal scholarly journey, featuring two faculty as lead teachers but drawing on graduate students and any other interested faculty members as equal collaborators. Theory grads in their first and second years are particularly encouraged to attend, but all graduates with an interest in theory in our department and proximate ones are welcome. Topics to include the *polis* (city-state), *oikos* (household), freedom, slavery, Aristotle's interpretation of Plato, citizenship, democracy, oligarchy, Aristotle's ideal political system, the political implications of economic disparity, and how to think about and avoid political revolution.

Requirements for Satisfactory enrollment: Class participation (including at least one opportunity to lead discussion on a passage or topic) and a 200-word (max) forum contribution every week.

Requirements for letter grade enrollment: As above, plus 20-25 pages of formal writing—either two 8-12 page papers or one longer one.

Primary text options: There are many English translations available, and it will be helpful to have different ones in the room, so we will not specify a common text. Some good possibilities are by Reeve (Hackett; there are 2 editions, but we haven't yet examined the later edition closely); Lord (Chicago; also 2 editions, the later one has a good glossary); Simpson (UNC Press); and the Clarendon series (2 books per volume, different translators). Lintott's new translation of 5 and 6 has lots of historical apparatus and is also interesting. You are also welcome to use Barnes's revision of the Oxford translation, or Rackham's English rendering in the Loeb. If you wish to use another translation not listed here, please feel free to check with us. We recommend having a couple of translations to hand so that you can have some sense of a range of meanings when a passage is ambiguous or difficult. Those who wish to follow the Greek are welcome to use any of the editions in the standard series (OCT, Loeb, Teubner, Budé), or Dreizehnter's (Munich: Fink, 1970).

Possible secondary reading: The literature on the *Politics* and related topics is vast. Here, we're just going to list a few things we're particularly fond of on both Aristotle and the general context. Ask us about particular topics and we'll be happy to follow up with more suggestions.

Pierre Aubenque, ed., *Aristote politique. Études sur la Politique d'Aristote* (PUF, 1993)

Eugene Garver, *Aristotle's Politics* (Chicago, 2011)

M.H. Hansen and T. Nielsen, *Inventory of Archaic and Classical Greek Poleis* (Oxford, 2004)

M.H. Hansen, *Reflections on Aristotle's Politics* (Copenhagen, 2013)

David Keyt and Fred Miller, eds., *A Companion to Aristotle's Politics* (Blackwell, 1991)

R. G. Mulgan, *Aristotle's Political Theory: An Introduction for Students of Political Theory* (Clarendon, 1977): remains a good introductory text

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Richard Kraut, *Aristotle: Political Philosophy* (Oxford, 2002)
Günther Patzig, ed., *Aristoteles' Politik: Akten des XI. Symposium Aristotelicum* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1990)
David Riesbeck, *Aristotle on Political Community* (Cambridge, 2016)
Eric Robinson, *Democracy beyond Athens* (Cambridge, 2011)
GEM de Sainte Croix, *The Class Struggle in the Ancient Greek World* (Cornell, 1981), 69-80
Bernard Yack, *The Problems of a Political Animal: Community, Justice, and Conflict in Aristotelian Political Thought* (Berkeley, 1993)

Commentaries: Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on Aristotle's Politics*, tr. Richard Regan (Hackett, 2007); W. L. Newman, *The Politics of Aristotle*, 4 vols. (Oxford, 1887-1902); Franz Susemihl and R. D. Hicks, *The Politics of Aristotle* (Macmillan, 1894); Peter L. Phillips Simpson, *A Philosophical Commentary on the Politics of Aristotle* (UNC Press, 1998); Eckart Schütrumpf, *Aristoteles Politik*, 4 vols. (Akademie Verlag, 1991–2005); Lucio Bertelli, Mauro Moggi, et alia, *Aristotele, La politica*, 7 vols. (L'erma di Bretschneider, 2011-2022)

Class Schedule

1. Aug 26. Introduction and *Pol. I*.
2. Sep 2. *Pol. I* cont.
3. Sep 9. *Pol. II*.
4. Sep 16. *Pol. II* cont.
5. Sep 23. *Pol. III*.
6. Sep 30. *Pol. III* cont.
7. Oct 7. *Pol. IV*.
8. Oct 14. *Pol. IV* cont.
9. Oct 21. *Pol. V*.
10. Oct 28. *Pol. V* cont.
11. Nov 4. *Pol. VI*.
[Nov 11 no class]
12. Nov 18. *Pol. VI* cont.
[Nov 25 no class]
13. Dec 2. *Pol. VII* and *VIII*.
14. Dec 9. *Pol. VII* and *VIII* cont and concluding discussion.