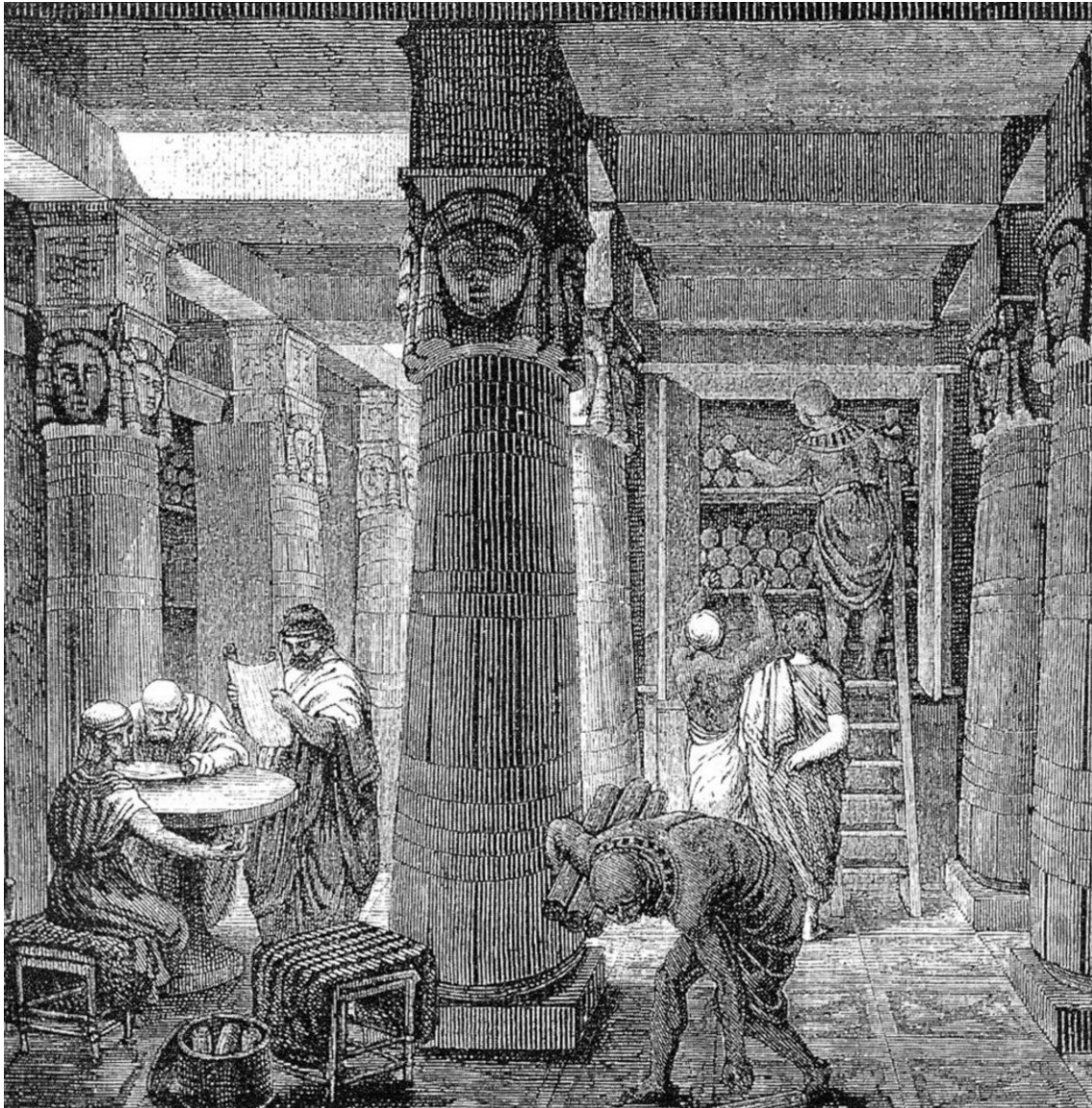


Classics/Political Science/Philosophy 3434

The Ancient Origins of Political Thought: From Homer to Aristotle

Instructor: Dr. Larissa Atkison
Email: Larissa.Atkison@dal.ca
Lectures: T/TH/F 2:35-2:25 LSC Psychology P5208/On Collaborate
(hosted by Brightspace)
Office Hours: After class, or by appointment



COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class will study the beginnings of political thought with Greek poets, historians, and educators, culminating in a careful investigation of the

political writings of Plato and Aristotle. We will consider philosophical questions about the origin of the state, the purpose of political community, the different kinds of regimes or constitutions, the common good, individual freedoms, revolution, war, wealth, poverty, and slavery.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments and Class Participation Overview:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Kick-off Discussion Question	15%
Critical Reflections x 3	30%
Final Exam	25%

This grading scheme is approximate: all final letter grades are subject to the instructor's discretion to reflect the grade scale as included below.

Participation and Attendance (10%): You are expected to attend every class having completed the reading, with the text in hand, and ready for class discussion. Undocumented absences, excessive lateness, and other indiscretions, such as texting, talking, or surfing the internet during class-time, will cost you a penalty of 2% a day up to 10%.

Attendance policy for online classes: Dalhousie has announced an online start to term until at least the end of January. During this time, this class will be conducted as an online seminar. In all classes, including online class lectures and discussions, you are expected to be **present**. Class lectures will not be recorded and so it is your job to take notes and make sure you have eliminated all sources of distraction. Your computers should be in do not disturb mode for the duration of the course, your browser should have only the class window open, and your phone should be off. During class discussion, **cameras should be on and you should be prepared to fully participate** -- as though you were attending this seminar in person.

Demonstration of professional and courteous behaviour throughout the course will also contribute to this grade. Unprofessional and discourteous behaviour, such as texting, walking out of class in the middle of discussions, talking while others are discussing, watching non-course-related content on your computer, and not bringing the text to class, will have a detrimental effect on your participation and attendance.

Midterm (20%)

There will be **one** in-class tests (consisting of definitions, short answer questions, and essay questions). More details on the precise format of each will be given in class.

Kick-off discussion question (15%): You will be assigned a class to present a kick-off question. Kick-off questions should address a central theme, theoretical claim, problem or puzzle, from the session's readings, tease out a tension between different arguments, or apply an insight or problem from the readings to a real-world issue. Kick-off questions should engage with the readings with the aim of generating subsequent discussion. These questions should be submitted by 10 a.m. the day of class to a kick-off question discussion board. When it is your turn to present your question, you should be prepared, with your text in hand, to lead the class through your question, including by drawing attention to those passages that prompted it as well as, after facilitating discussion, your own responses to it.

Critical Reading Reflection (10% x 3): You are expected to contribute **THREE** (of four possible) **critical reading reflections (1000 words each)** throughout the term. These should be thoughtful and thorough, written in clear prose, and engage closely with the assigned readings. I expect to see ample page references from our text to support your claims. Please include the word count at the top of your assignment along with your name, the date, and a title.

Note, that a critical reading reflection is not a summary or description of the reading. Rather, your reflection should examine a theoretical claim, tease out a tension between different arguments, or apply an insight or problem from the readings to a real-world issue.

The overall mark on the assignment will take into account the your critical engagement with the reading, originality of your questions, and the clarity of your expression.

Hint: Think of your critical discussion question as your opportunity to come up with a compelling prompt for these longer reflection assignments.

Final Exam (25%): Students will write an online final exam during the scheduled exam period. This consisting of definitions, short answer questions, and essay questions. More details on the precise format of each will be given in class.

PLAGIARISM AND INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. Plagiarism and self-plagiarism are forms of academic fraud;

complaints or allegations of such are subject to the adjudication of the Senate Discipline Committee. The Dalhousie website has a special page devoted to Academic Integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and techniques for avoiding it:
<http://plagiarism.dal.ca/>.

NB: This class focuses on PRIMARY texts (texts written by the authors being studied). You do not need to consult any secondary literature in writing your papers, though you should feel free to do so. If you do, be sure to cite any sources you have consulted.

GRADES

The grading scale for the course can be found below:

	Grade Submission On Line	
4.3	90-100	A+
4	85-89	A
3.7	80-84	A-
3.3	77-79	B+
3	73-76	B
2.7	70-72	B-
2.3	65-69	C+
2	60-64	C
1.7	55-59	C-
1	50-54	D
0	0-49	F

COURSE TEXTS:

Please find below a list of the texts we will be treating in class. The editions listed are the translations I will be referring to in lecture, but as long as you have an edition and translation with ancient line numbers in the margins, you can feel free to use any translation. Regardless of which edition you choose, I do ask that you bring a copy of the book we are studying to each class.

All texts are available at the Dalhousie Bookstore.

- * Homer. *The Iliad*. Trans. Robert Fagles. Penguin Classics, 1998.
- * Aeschylus. *Oresteia*. Trans. Peter Meinecke. Hackett, 1998.

- * Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Trans. G.M. A. Grube. Hackett, 2001.
- * Aristophanes. *Clouds*. Trans. Peter Meineck, Trans. 2000.
- * Aristotle. *Politics*. Trans. Joe Sachs. Focus Classical Library, 2012.

Any additional readings will be posted to the Brightspace site.

Brightspace Course Page

There is a Brightspace page for this course, and students are expected to consult it regularly for important announcements. On this page you will find the syllabus, the link to our online classroom, any course handouts, a calendar with important dates for the class, reading questions, as well as a discussion board for discussing the material with your colleagues.

For assistance outside of class with Brightspace, contact the Computer Centre Help Desk located in the basement of the Killam Library at helpdesk@dal.ca or (902) 494-2376. Please report any other problems or concerns with Brightspace to your instructor.

STATEMENT ON ACCESSIBILITY

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 902-494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to fully participate in the class.

TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Please Note: This schedule may be periodically adjusted or corrected as required)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	06/01	Introduction		Introductory discussion post
2	11/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books I-II (Bk 1 complete, Bk 2 focus on 1-454).	
	13/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books III-V	
3	18/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books V-IX	*Last day to add/Last day to drop without fees
	20/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Book XI, XII, XVI	Critical Reflection One due on Brightspace
4	25/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books, XVIII, XXI-XXIII	
	27/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Book XXIV	
5	01/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Agamemnon</i>	
	03/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Agamemnon</i>	
6	08/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>The Libation Bearers</i>	
	10/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>The Libation Bearers</i>	Critical Reflection Two due on Brightspace
7	15/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Eumenides</i>	
	17/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Eumenides</i>	
8	20/02	Winter Study Break		
		Winter Study Break		
9	01/03	In-Class Midterm		

	03/03	Plato's <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>	<i>Apology</i>	
10	08/03	Plato's <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>	<i>Apology</i>	
	10/03	Aristophanes' <i>Clouds</i>	<i>Clouds</i>	
11	15/03	Aristophanes' <i>Clouds</i>	<i>Clouds</i>	
	17/03	Plato's <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>	<i>Crito</i>	Critical Reflection Three due on Brightspace
12	22/03	Plato's <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>	<i>Crito</i>	
	24/03	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Books I, III-IV	
13	29/03	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Books V-VI (with selections from NE to TBD)	
	31/03	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Books VII-VIII	Critical Reflection Four due on Brightspace
14	05/04	Course conclusions	Review and exam prep.	