

**Classics//Political Science/Philosophy 3434**  
***The Ancient Origins of Political Thought: From Homer to Aristotle***  
**Course Outline 2017**

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Lectures: MWF 10:35-11:25 in Henry Hicks 217  
Office: Department of Classics, McCain 1178  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30; Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30; Fridays, 1:00-2:30 or by special appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This class will study the very 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 investigate 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**

Attendance:	5%
Paper 1	25%
Paper 2	35%
Final Exam (TBD)	35%

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

1. Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory. For every absence from class without a legitimate and documented reason, 1% will be deducted from the final grade, up to a total of 5%.
2. Papers: Two papers must be submitted during the term. You can write a paper on Homer, a paper on Greek drama, a paper on Plato, or a paper on Aristotle. You must, however, write at least one of your papers on either Plato or Aristotle. The papers should be approximately 1500 words long, and while you can feel free to consult secondary literature, the principal engagement will be with the text you are treating. I will post questions online approximately one month in advance of the deadlines. See the schedule for the deadlines of the four papers – papers should be submitted online to [eli.diamond@dal.ca](mailto:eli.diamond@dal.ca) by midnight AST of the deadline, and then submitted in hard copy either in class or in my mailbox in the Classics Department.
3. Final Exam: The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar to take place during the exam period. All the material in the class will be covered, but with special emphasis on our reading of Plato and Aristotle. The exam will have a section with short-answer questions, but most of the exam will ask you to answer

essay questions on the material, which you will receive at least two weeks in advance.

**Late Policy:** For the papers, one fraction of a grade will be deducted per day (excluding Saturday and Sunday). For example, an 'A' paper due Monday but submitted 2 days late on Wednesday would be given a B+.

**On the Brightspace website you will find a folder entitled “READING QUESTIONS.” For each text I have posted a series of questions to keep in mind as you are reading the text, to help focus your attention on the kinds of questions we will be considering 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:

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

## **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 treating to each class. I will also put a copy of each of these on 3 hour reserve.

All texts are available at the **University of King's College Bookstore**. This list is also posted on the King's Bookstore ([http://kingsbookstore.ca/?q=p.classics\\_\\_reli](http://kingsbookstore.ca/?q=p.classics__reli)), under the CLAS/PHIL/POLI 3434 tab:

- \* Homer. *The Iliad*. Trans. Robert Fagles. Penguin Classics, 1998.
- \* Hesiod. *Theogony*. Trans. Richard Caldwell. Focus Classical Library, 1987.
- \* Aeschylus. *Oresteia*. Trans. Peter Meinecke. Hackett, 1998.
- \* Aristophanes, *Birds*. Trans. With Introduction and Notes by Jeffrey Henderson. Focus Classical Library, 1999.
- \* Plato, *Republic*, trans. G.M.A. Grube and C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett, 1992.
- \* Plato, *Statesman*. Trans. Eva Brann, Peter Kalkavage, Eric Salem. Focus Classical Library, 2012.
- \* Aristotle. *Politics*. Trans. Joe Sachs. Focus Classical Library, 2012.

Certain short readings available in older public domain translations will be posted to the Brightspace site (Thucydides, Sophists, Plato's *Crito* and *Laws*), as well as some supplemental optional essays to read on the material.

## **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, 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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	09/01	Introduction		
	11/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 1-2	
	13/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 3-5	
2	16/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 6, 7, 8 (1-62)	
	18/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 9, 11, 16	
	20/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 18, 22, 23	Last day to add/Last day to drop without fees
3	23/01	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Book 24	
	25/01	Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i>	<i>Theogony</i> (complete)	
	27/01	No class		
4	30/01	Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i>	<i>Theogony</i> (complete)	
	1/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Agamemnon</i>	
	3/02	<b>MUNRO DAY – No class</b>		,
5	6/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Libation Bearers</i>	Homer paper due
	8/02	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Furies</i>	
	10/02	Sophistry – Nature and Convention	Readings on Brightspace	Last day to drop without 'W'
6	13/10	Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War - Book Two 34-65	Readings on Brightspace	
	15/10	Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War - Book Three 25-50 and 82-83; Book Five 84-116; Book Six 7-31	Readings on Brightspace	
	17/10	Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War - Book Seven 72-87	Readings on Brightspace	
7	20/10	<b>Winter Study Break</b>		
	22/10	<b>Winter Study Break</b>		
	24/10	<b>Winter Study Break</b>		
8	27/10	Aristophanes' <i>Birds</i>	<i>Birds</i>	
	01/03	Aristophanes' <i>Birds</i>	<i>Birds</i>	
	03/03	Plato's <i>Crito</i> – Socratic Politics	Plato's <i>Crito</i> on Brightspace	
9	06/03	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Book I	
	08/03	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Books II-IV	
	10/03	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Book V	

10	13/03	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Books VI-VII	Drama Paper due
	15/03	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Books VIII-IX	
	17/03	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Book X	
11	20/03	Plato's <i>Statesman</i>	<i>Statesman</i>	
	22/03	Plato's <i>Statesman</i>	<i>Statesman</i>	
	24/03	Plato's <i>Statesman</i>	<i>Statesman</i>	
12	27/03	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book I 1-7; 12-13	
	29/03	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book II 1-5; 7-8; 12(only up to 1274a22 – on Solon);	
	31/03	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book III 1-5	
13	03/04	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book IV 1-2; 4 (only 1291b30 to the end); 8-9; 11-12	Plato Paper due
	05/04	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book VII 1-15	
	07/04	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book VIII 1-3	
14	10/04	Conclusion		

**\* If you write your second paper on Aristotle, it is due by noon on Monday, April 17.**