

## Syllabus for CLAS/PHIL/POLI 3424: Ancient Political Thought from Homer to Aristotle

In-Person, Wednesday and Friday: 11:35 am-12:55 pm

Life Science Building Psychology P5208

### Instructor

Dr. Luke Togni

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Office Hours: Friday 1-1:50pm and by appointment.

I am an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Classics and Research Fellow at the Franciscan Institute at St. Bonaventure University. My research has focused on the intersection St. Bonaventure (1217-1274 CE) and late-ancient author Pseudo-Dionysius (ca. 500 CE).

## A) Course Policies and Description

This class will study the very beginnings of political thought with Greek poets and 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.

Furthermore, the course presents the opportunity to become familiar not only with the different genres of writing in the world of ancient Greece, but also to see earlier works of the poets and historians was received, engaged, and questioned by the Plato and Aristotle. Students will practice reading and making arguments about and from these different sorts of texts in our classroom discussions, two essay assignments, and a final examination.

## Learning Outcomes

*By the end of this course, you should:*

1. Know the **history and themes** of ancient Greek political thought.
2. How to **read and analyze ancient primary source** material in translation.
3. How to **analyze and synthesize** ancient Greek political thought.
4. The **reception history** of key mythological stories, ideas, and questions through Greek antiquity.

## Required 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.

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 and Plato's *Crito*), as well as some supplemental optional essays to read on the material.

## Grading

The grades for this course will be calculated as follows:

5% Attendance  
 25% Paper 1  
 35% Paper 2  
 35% Final Exam

A+	90-100%	4.3
A	85-89%	4.0
A-	80-84%	3.7
B+	77-79%	3.3
B	73-76%	3
B-	70-82%	2.7
C+	65-69%	2.3
C	60-64%	2
C-	55-59%	1.7
D	50-54%	1
F	0-49%	0

## Course Assignments

### *Readings*

This course depends upon your effective reading of the assigned materials. As noted above, your readings will consist of **primary sources in translation** from required texts. Any other readings will be posted to Brightspace. **The readings listed in the calendar** are required unless stated otherwise.

### *Papers*

Two papers must be submitted during the term. Paper 1 must be written on Homer or on Greek drama. The Paper 2 must be written on either Plato or Aristotle. Both 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 the Brightspace dropbox by midnight (AST) of the deadline, and then submitted in hard copy either in class or in my mailbox in the Classics Department.

### *Final Examination*

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 in order to make adequate preparation.

## 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%. If you miss a class, please contact your instructor within 24 hours and ensure that you take the proper steps to keep up to date on course work.

## Late Work

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+

## 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.

## 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 <https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=117&chapterid=7301&topicgroupid=32161&loadusercredits=False>. 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.

## Calendar

Important dates for the course are given below including assignment due-dates and dismissed classes. The tentative schedule of themes is presented alongside. It is subject to change. Class readings and discussion questions will be available online after each class meeting.

Week Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	07/09	Introduction	
	09/09	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 1-3
2	14/09	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 5,6, 7, 8 (1-62)
	16/09	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Books 9, 11, 16, 18 Last day to add/Last day to drop without fees

3	21/09	Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	Book 22, 23, 24	
	23/09	Hesiod's <i>Theogony</i>	<i>Theogony</i> (complete)	
4	28/09	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Agamemnon</i>	
	30/09	<b>Truth and Reconciliation Day- NO CLASS</b>		
	3/10	<b>NOTE:</b>		Last day to drop without 'W'
5	5/10	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Libation Bearers</i>	Homer paper due
	7/10	Aeschylus' <i>Oresteia</i>	<i>Furies</i>	
6	12/10	Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War - Book Two 34-65	Readings on Brightspace	
	14/10	Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War - Book Three 25-50 and 82- 83; Book Five 84- 116; Book Six 7-31	Readings on Brightspace	
7	19/10	Aristophanes' <i>Birds</i>	<i>Birds</i>	
	21/10	<b>NO CLASSES</b>		
8	26/10	Plato's <i>Crito</i> – Socratic Politics	Plato's <i>Crito</i> on Brightspace	
	28/10	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Book I-II	
9	2/11	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Books III-V	
	4/11	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Books VI-VIII	Drama Paper due
10	16/11	Plato's <i>Republic</i>	Books IX-X	
	18/11	Plato' <i>Statesman</i>	<i>Statesman</i>	

11	23/11	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book I 1-7; 12-13	
	25/11	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book II 1-5; 7-8; 12(only up to 1274a22 – on Solon)	
12	30/11	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book III 1-5; Book IV 1-2; 4 (only 1291b30 to the end); 8-9; 11-12	Plato Paper due
	2/12	Aristotle's <i>Politics</i>	Book VII 1-15; VIII 1-3	
14	7/12	Conclusion		
	14/12	<b>NOTE</b>		Aristotle Paper due

## B) UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

### Territorial Acknowledgement

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

### • Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. (read more:

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html))

### • Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact:

Student Accessibility Centre ([https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html))

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.

### • **Conduct in the Classroom**

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

### • **Diversity and Inclusion**

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). (read more: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

### • **Student Code of Conduct**

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. (Read more: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html))

### • **Fair Dealing policy**

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. (read more: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy.html))

- **Internationalization**

At Dalhousie, ‘thinking and acting globally’ enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is “interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders.”(Read more: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html>)

## C) UNIVERSITY POLICIES, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

Dalhousie courses are governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. (<https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/catalog/viewcatalog.aspx>)

**Important student information, services and resources are available as follows:**

### University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)  
[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)
- Classroom Recording Protocol  
[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recordingprotocol.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recordingprotocol.html) •  
Dalhousie Grading Practices Policy  
[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)
- Grade Appeal Process [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-agrade.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-agrade.html)
- Sexualized Violence Policy [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violencepolicy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violencepolicy.html)
- Scent-Free Program <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

### Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html) (Halifax) <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/ssc/academic-support/advising.html> (Truro) 2
- Student Health & Wellness Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html)
- On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond) [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/On-track.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/On-track.html)
- Indigenous Student Centre [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html) See also: Indigenous Connection: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/indigenous-connection.html>
- Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca) or 902-494-6803.)



<https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/UG/indigenous-studies/Elder-ProtocolJuly2018.pdf>

- Black Student Advising Centre [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-studentadvising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-studentadvising.html)
- International Centre [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html)
- South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre <https://southhousehalifax.ca/about/>
- LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative - <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres/education-campaigns/LGBTQ2SIACollaborative.html>
- Dalhousie Libraries <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Copyright Office <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas?rq=student%20advocacy>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-andresponsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-andresponsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)
- Human Rights and Equity Services <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html>
- Writing Centre [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)
- Study Skills/Tutoring [http://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

NB: Faculty or Departmental Advising Support (Note: there is a different link for each faculty, and possibly for different departments or programs)

## Safety

- Biosafety <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>
- Chemical Safety <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>
- Radiation Safety <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>
- Laser Safety <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety/laser-safety.html>