Classics of Social and Political Thought
Section 2
The University of Chicago
The College
Fall 2018
TuTh 9:30 – 10:50; Rosenwald 432

Instructor: Intern:
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Office Hours Thursdays 3:30-4:30 *and by appointment**

Course:
"What is justice? What makes a good society? And who the hell asked you, anyway?" This sequence examines such problems as the conflicts between individual interest and common good; between morality, religion, and politics; between liberty and equality; between teachers and students; between 9:30 and 10:50 AM.

Readings:
Most of the readings are books available at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore. Other readings will be posted to our CHALK site. If printing things out from this is a burden to you, let me know, and we'll work out another way.

Books ordered at the Seminary Cooperative Bookstore:
  Plato, *The Republic,* trans. Allan Bloom (Basic Books, 1991)
  Aristotle, *The Politics,* trans. C.D.C. Reeve (Hackett, 1998)
  Thomas Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics,* trans. & ed. William P. Baumgarth & Richard J. Regan, 2nd ed. (Hackett, 2003)
  Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince,* trans. Harvey C. Mansfield, 2nd ed. (University of Chicago Press, 1998)

Requirements and Grading:
Not surprisingly, a big part of the class is doing the readings, and perhaps re-reading if you realize after class that you missed a lot of what was going on. Regular and cheerful attendance is expected; that means and contributing not only about what you understand and appreciate, but also what you don't understand and/or hate. There are three five page papers. A "five page paper" is one that can be anywhere from a single word to five pages (double-spaced, 12 point, 1" margins) but not an n-dash more. You can put a cover page on if you want, or if you have the space, your name can be at the top. The idea is to work on expressing your thoughts in as direct and elegant a fashion as you can.

A word on laptops: if you have a learning issue that really requires the use of a laptop, please see me. Otherwise, please do not bring laptops to class. (Tablets on which readings are present are okay, but you should have a book for almost all of these and I urge printouts for the other.

But if you want to read them on your phone, or your watch, or your google goggles, I won't prevent you.) They suck participation away from the class as a whole; we want you paying attention to one another, and not an illuminated screen. If you do bring a laptop any day, for that day, you start with a negative participation score, and will have to be unusually engaged and animated to overcome this.[1]

Your grade is computed 20% for each paper, 20% brute attendance (physical presence) and 20% participation. Some participation every day is some of that 20; more is more. Papers are to be turned in to my "box" in the sociology department main office. Do you not know where the sociology department main office is? Capacity to independently ascertain its whereabouts and successfully transport oneself there by 4:00 in the afternoon is necessary to earn a passing grade in this section.

A word on secondary sources: the texts we are reading are challenging. It is not uncommon for students to be unsure of their own interpretation. In some cases, editors/translators will be of great assistance. We hope that you will soon find your sea legs here, but if you do wish to turn to a secondary treatment as a scaffolding for your first reading, whether Wikipedia, Cliff notes, *Classics Illustrated*, or *Medieval Scholasticism for Complete F****n Idiots*, make sure that you only use this to orient yourself, at which point you put the secondary treatment down, never to be picked up again, and read independently. If you do turn to a secondary source when writing your paper, do make sure to cite it. We certainly want to discourage their use, but understand that sometimes it is better than the alternative. You are, however, always responsible for independently supporting any claim you make.

Reading assignments

Tuesday, October 2
Plato, *Republic* Book I 327a-336a

Thursday, October 4
Plato, *Republic* Book I 336b to Book II 367e

Tuesday, October 9
Plato, *Republic* Book II 367e through Book III. Note that there is a translation error in 370a; in Adeimantus's line, switch "former" and "latter."

Thursday, October 11
Plato, *Republic* Book IV

Tuesday, October 16
Plato, *Republic* Book V; *Laws* V 739a-740a (*Laws* excerpts on Chalk under course documents)

Thursday, October 18

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[1] Note that by "unusually engaged" I don't mean looking up when Aquinas was born on Wikipedia—I mean listening to and responding to other students.

Plato, *Republic* Books VI-VII; *Laws* XI 918c-919d

> *The first paper is assigned today, due next Wednesday* (October 24) *at 4:00.*

Tuesday, October 23
Plato, *Republic* Books VIII-IX to 576b; *Laws* III 693c-e, IV 713e-715d, VI 756e-758a, and IX 875a-d

Thursday, October 25
Plato, *Republic* Book IX 576b through Book X

Tuesday, October 30
Aristotle, *Politics* Book I, chaps. 1-7, 12-13 (pp. 1-12, 21-25); **Nichomachean Ethics* Book I, chaps. 1-3, 7, 10; Book II, chaps. 1, 4, 6 (pp. 3-6, 14-19, 23-26, 33-35, 38-40, 41-44)

Thursday, November 1
Aristotle, *Politics* Book I, chaps. 8-9; Book II, chaps. 1-5, 7; Book III, chaps. 1-5 (pp. 12-18, 26-36, 41-45, 65-75)

Tuesday, November 6
Aristotle, *Politics* Book III, chaps. 6-18 (pp. 75-100)

Thursday, November 8
Aristotle, *Politics* Book IV, chaps. 1-2, 4-9, 11-12; Book V, chaps. 1, 8, 11; Book VI, chaps. 2, 4 (pp. 101-04, 106-17, 118-23, 134-36, 152-56, 166-71, 176-78, 179-82); **Nichomachean Ethics*, Book 6, chaps. 5, 7 (end), 8 (120-121, 123-126).

> *The second paper is assigned today, due next Wednesday* (November 14) *at 4:00.*

Tuesday, November 13
Aristotle, *Politics* Book VII, chaps. 1-4, 7, 9-10, 13-15; Book VIII, chaps. 1-3 (pp. 191-99, 202-3, 205-8, 212-19, 227-31); **Nichomachean Ethics*, Book X, 6-9 (pp. 286-302)

Thursday, November 15
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* I-II Questions 90-95 (pp. 10-59); note this and all other Aquinas readings are in Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics.*

Tuesday, November 20
Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* I-II Q. 96 & Q. 97 (pp. 59-75); Q. 100 A. 1, 2, 8-9 (pp. 76-79, 81-86); Q. 105 A. 1 (pp. 93-96); II-II Q. 57 A. 2-4 (pp. 100-105); Q. 58 A. 2 (pp. 107-108); Q. 40 A. 1 (pp. 164-167); Q. 104 A. 5-6 (pp. 182-185); Q. 42 A. 2 (pp. 188-189); Q. 10 A. 8, 11, Q. 11 A. 3, *Commentary on the Sentences* 44, 37 (pp. 190-196); *On Kingship* I 6 (pp. 207-210)

Thursday, November 22—no class; thanksgiving break

Tuesday, November 27

Machiavelli, *Prince* Dedicatory Letter, I-IX (pp. 3-42); **Discourses* Dedicatory Letter; Preface (pp. 3-6).

Thursday, November 29
Machiavelli, *Prince* X-XVIII (pp. 42-71); **Discourses* Book I, chaps. 9-12, 18-21, 25-27, 54-58 (pp. 28-39, 49-55, 60-63, 108-119)

> *The third paper is assigned today, due next Wednesday* week (December 5) *at 4:00. Now you know what to be thankful for….*

Tuesday, December 4
Machiavelli, *Prince* XIX-XXVI (pp. 71-105); **Discourses* Book II, chap. 2; Book III, chap 9, 31 [start], 40-43 (pp. 129-133, 239-241, 281, 299-303)

Other little things….

* Office hours "by appointment" are usually best for you, though you are always welcome to drop by during my scheduled hours. The way to do it is to email me a set of times you can meet in order of preference, and then I'll choose the one I can do. This shortens the number of back-and-forth emails and allows us to set something up quicker.

** Of course we run on the honor system here, but the internet has changed the nature of academic misconduct in such a way as to lead to more "borderline cases." As you are responsible for knowing where this line is, if you have any doubts, definitely talk to me and advisors here. Please hand in papers on time; late papers go down .5 grades for every day late.

*** Your grade average is 60% papers, 20% non electronicized attendance, 20% participation.