Classics of Social and Political Thought
Section 3
The University of Chicago
The College
Fall 2014
TuTh 9:00 – 10:20; Social Sciences Room 106

Instructor: John Levi Martin
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Ex-Libris in the Reg

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 9:00 and 10:20 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:

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. 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 4:30 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, September 30**
Plato, *Republic* Book I 327a-336a

**Thursday, October 2**
Plato, *Republic* Book I 336b to Book II 367e

**Tuesday, October 7**
Plato, *Republic* Book II 367e through Book III

**Thursday, October 9**
Plato, *Republic* Book IV

**Tuesday, October 14**
Plato, *Republic* Book V; *Laws* V 739a-740a (*Laws* excerpts on Chalk under course documents)

**Thursday, October 16**
Plato, *Republic* Books VI-VII; *Laws* XI 918c-919d

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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.
Tuesday, October 21
Plato, Republic Books VIII-IX to 576b; Laws III 693c-e, IV 713e-715d, VI 756e-758a, and IX 875a-d

Thursday, October 23
Plato, Republic Book IX 576b through Book X

Tuesday, October 28
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, October 30
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 4
Aristotle, Politics Book III, chaps. 6-18 (pp. 75-100)

Thursday, November 6
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)

*The second paper is assigned today, due next Wednesday (November 12) at 4:30.*

Tuesday, November 11
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 13
Aquinas, Summa Theologica I-II Questions 90-95 (pp. 10-59);

Tuesday, November 18
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 20
Machiavelli, Prince Dedicatory Letter, I-IX (pp. 3-42); *Discourses* Dedicatory Letter; Book I, Introduction and chap. 2 (pp. 101-05, 110-17)

Tuesday, November 25
Machiavelli, Prince X-XVIII (pp. 42-71); *Discourses* Book I, chaps. 3-6, 10 (pp. 117-30, 141-45)
The third paper is assigned today, due next Wednesday week (December 3) at 4:30. Now you know what to be thankful for….

Thursday, November 27—no class; thanksgiving break

Tuesday, December 2
Machiavelli, *Prince* XIX-XXVI (pp. 71-105); *Discourses* Book II, chap. 2 (pp. 281-88)

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.