

**01:790:371:01 Western Tradition I: Plato to Machiavelli**

Fall 2020

Online Hybrid Course

Course Meeting Time (Synchronous class time): Tuesdays 2:35 – 3:35 pm via Zoom

Professor Danielle Hanley, Department of Political Science

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Office Hours (via Zoom) Tuesdays 12:00 –1:30 pm and by appointment

**Course Description:** “Western Tradition 1: Plato to Machiavelli” surveys the development of political thought in the ancient world, in both Athens and Rome. It introduces fundamental questions in the study of political thought, focusing on definitions and discussions of regimes, including the democratic regime of Athens. This course explores both critics and advocates of democracy in the works of Plato and Aristotle alike, working to understand the way these thinkers are in conversation with one another within their seminal texts. This course moves beyond the Athenian example to explore the contours of empire, engaging multiple strands of Roman and Christian political thought. The course concludes by thinking beyond the ancient world, beyond polis and empire, to consider both Machiavelli as a transitional figure in the history of political thought as well as the way the ideas studied in this class punctuate contemporary debates. This course develops deeper and more sustained readings of ancient texts introduced in Nature of Politics, and encourages further development of student comprehension and writing practices.

**Assigned texts:** The books for this course are listed below, with publishers in parentheses. These texts are available at Rutgers/Barnes and Noble, but I encourage you to find the best deals wherever you can. The underlined texts must be purchased, but these books are a good investments for students of political theory. Please purchase the specific edition indicated on the syllabus—the best way to do so is to search for the listed ISBN. Additional readings will be uploaded or linked on Sakai, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) on the syllabus.

Aristotle, *Politics* (University of Chicago Press 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) ISBN: 978-0226921846

Epictetus, *Handbook* (Hackett) ISBN: 978-0915145690

Plato, *Four Texts on Socrates* (Cornell) ISBN: 978-0801485749

Plato, *The Republic* (Hackett) ISBN: 978-0465094080

Sophocles, *The Theban Plays* (Dover Thrift Edition) ISBN: 978-0486450490

\*\*\*If you anticipate any trouble obtaining the course text (financial or otherwise), please reach out to Professor Hanley, who can help arrange an alternative form of delivery.

**Technology Requirements for 790:371:** To successfully complete this course, students must have internet access or capability to log-in to zoom through their phone (through the call-in number) on Tuesdays from 2:35 to 3:35 pm (EST) throughout the semester. Students must also have sufficient internet access to post weekly forum posts, respond to their fellow students’ posts, and upload class assignments to the course site. If any student is concerned about their internet access or access to the course materials, please reach out to Professor Hanley directly. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, Professor Hanley will help students navigate their specific technological challenges, and promises flexibility with regard to the current global situation.

\*\*\*In addition, please visit [Rutgers Student Tech Guide \(https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/\)](https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, you can email the Dean of Students at [deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu) for assistance.

### **Grading:**

Four short papers: 48% (12% each)

Weekly discussion forum posts and responses: 30%

Class citizenship (attendance and participation in Deme activities): 22%

### **Course Meetings and Mechanics**

This is a hybrid course. This means that it has both synchronous and asynchronous elements. Please read through the following bullet points carefully:

- Our class will use **SAKAI** as our Learning Management System.
- Class meetings will occur via **Zoom** at the following recurring link: [INSERT LINK HERE].
- Professor Hanley will use the **'Announcements'** feature of SAKAI to send relevant information, reading, and updates for the course. Please make sure your SAKAI is set to send to your Rutgers email, and please check your Rutgers email daily for potential communication.
- Class will meet Tuesdays from 2:35 pm – 3:35 pm Eastern for group discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Please reach out to Professor Hanley directly if you have a scheduling conflict.
- Prior to class, you should read the assigned text(s) and watch the assigned video(s), if any. You should come prepared to discuss the relevant text(s) and video(s) with your classmates.
- Students will be placed in small groups, called Demes, for the semester. Your Deme will be your Zoom break-out group, and you will be asked to complete certain activities and discussions with your Deme throughout the semester.
- Students are responsible for weekly Discussion Forum posts. Posts are due Thursdays by 11:59 PM (so, a few days after our weekly class). Posts should be between 250-300 words. [there are 10 total discussion forums]
- Students are also responsible for 2 weekly forum responses. Responses are due Saturdays by 11:59 PM (so, a few days after your initial discussion post). Responses should be between 50-100 words. [10x2 is 20 total responses]
- Weeks that have PEER REVIEW **do not** have discussion posts or responses. Instead, revised paper drafts are due that following Thursday, when the discussion post is typically due.

### **Summary of Assignments and Coursework**

-EVERY TUESDAY: read before class, add to group note document

-EVERY THURSDAY: complete discussion post

-EVERY SATURDAY: complete forum responses

-VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER: complete Writing Activity and turn in assignment to course site

### **Deme Project: Group Note-Taking**

- As a Deme, you will develop a group set of notes on the readings and plays that we will watch. This will count as 50% of your total participation grade. You should take notes on a Google doc, or another shared note-taking software. You can use these notes to help you in class discussions and as aids for your papers that you will write for the course.
- Your Deme should decide what the note-taking schedule/plan is for the semester, and turn it into Professor Hanley by **September 15** after class.

**Learning Objectives:** Over the course of this class, you will:

- Learn fundamental principles and theories. This means you should be familiar with the texts we will read and the kinds of arguments we will encounter. You should know the key theories and debates with which each thinker is associated.
- Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas. You will be able to engage in political theory on your own, by reading similar texts and analyzing their arguments. You will be able to compare these arguments, and evaluate them.
- Develop skills in expressing yourself both orally and in writing. You will work on sharpening your own critical writing and analysis skills, and be able to present your arguments to your peers clearly and concisely.

**Course policies and information:**

- Class citizenship is made up of attendance and participation, which is mandatory. More than two absences will begin to affect your class citizenship grade. Please be in touch with the professor if circumstances arise that will result in more than two absences.
- Submission of all assignments is required to pass the course.
- Please note the University's policy on disability accommodations. I will gladly make accommodations for any student who needs them, though students must work with the Office of Disability Services (dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu). Their website is at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>
- Please note the University's policy on academic integrity and plagiarism: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

I especially recommend the resources under "For Students" in the upper right corner of the page. I encourage you to discuss the course readings and the issues that they raise with your classmates. But all work turned in with your name on it must be entirely your own. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with, and abiding by, the University's academic integrity policy. (See also <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-tutorial/>.) Violations of academic integrity will be handled personally by the professor and prosecuted through the Office of Student Conduct.

- Please note the University's religious observance policy: <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/religious-holiday-policy>

You should consider yourself excused when class falls on a religious holiday that you observe. You should inform the professor in advance, and you must make up any class notes or assignments that you miss.

- Announcements and course information will be posted to the course Sakai site and at times sent via email, through Sakai, to the class email list. The system automatically sends email to your official Rutgers address. If you don't know this email address, please find out and be sure to check it regularly.

**\*\*\*A NOTE ABOUT COVID-19 AND FALL 2020\*\*\***

I just want to acknowledge that this is not a normal semester—we are learning online and all dealing with different challenges in the time of Covid-19. This is an unusual semester for us all, and so all I ask is that you do your best, and that you communicate to me if any life issues come up for you or anyone in your care, so that I can do my best to help and accommodate you, and help you finish this course successfully. This includes illness, mental health, or other burdens that might arise in the course of this pandemic—I am not asking you to disclose anything, but instead to let me know that something's up, so that we can make a plan to finish the course together. I will also do my best to be flexible and understanding, while attempting to create an engaging learning environment on your computer screen. Also, all pets are always invited to our synchronous meetings.

**Schedule of readings, lectures, and assignment submissions:**

**Introduction**

September 1: First Meeting, go over syllabus and course expectations

September 3:

Submit: Discussion Post 1 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

September 5:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 1

September 8: NO CLASS, University on Monday Schedule

NO DISCUSSION POST OR RESPONSES THIS WEEK

**Ancient Regimes & Athenian Democracy**

September 15:

Read: Herodotus, "Constitutional Debate"\*  
Melissa Lane, "Politeia"\*

Submit: Deme Note-taking Plan to Professor Hanley

September 17:

Submit: Discussion Post 2 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

September 19:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 2

September 22:

Read: Thucydides, "Pericles' Funeral Oration"\*  
Thucydides, "Athenian Plague"\*

Ober, "The Meaning of Democracy"\*

September 24:

Submit: Discussion Post 3 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

September 26:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 3

September 29:

Read: Sophocles' *Antigone* in *The Theban Plays*

October 1:

Submit: Discussion Post 4 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 3:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 4

October 6: Writing Workshop 1

Bring Notes and Readings to Class (word, PDF, google docs, etc.)

October 8:

Submit: Final Draft of Writing Exercise 1 due to SAKAI 'Assignment'

### **Socrates: Critic of Democracy?**

October 13:

Read: Plato's *Apology* in *Four Texts on Socrates*  
Plato's *Crito* in *Four Texts on Socrates*

October 15:

Submit: Discussion Post 5 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 17:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 5

### **Philosophy in the Polis?**

October 20:

Read: Aristophanes' *Clouds* in *Four Texts on Socrates*  
Plato's *Republic* Books 1-3

Watch: Aristophanes' *Clouds* from Center for Hellenic Studies

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REZUCRm3lkk&list=PLq5ea-jR9u2ojLpe4x3suBCx1eGuXwnL2&index=17&t=0s>]

October 22:

Submit: Discussion Post 6 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 24:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 6

October 27:

Read: Plato's *Republic* Books 4-9 (excerpts)

October 29:

Submit: Discussion Post 7 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

October 31:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 7

November 3: Writing Workshop 2

Bring Notes and Readings to Class (word, PDF, google docs, etc.)

[ELECTION DAY—OPTION FOR ASYNCHRONOUS PARTICIPATION]

November 5:

Submit: Final Draft of Writing Exercise 2 due to SAKAI 'Assignment'

### **The Polis and the Practice of Politics**

November 10:

Read: Aristotle's *Politics* Book 1, 3, 4

November 12:

Submit: Discussion Post 8 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

November 14:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 8

November 17:

Read: Aristotle's *Politics* Book 7 and 8  
Ober, "Ancient Democracy"\*

November 19:

Submit: Discussion Post 9 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

November 21:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 9

### **Beyond Athens: Rome, Empire and Christianity**

November 24:

Read: Epictetus *The Handbook*  
Seneca *On Anger*\*  
Dietz, "Between Polis and Empire"\*

NO DISCUSSION POST THIS WEEK-THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 1:

Read: Cicero, *On the Commonwealth* (excerpts)\*  
Augustine, *City of God* (excerpts)\*

DEMES-CHECK IN WITH PROFESSOR HANLEY ABOUT GROUP NOTES

December 3:

Submit: Discussion Post 10 in 'Forums' on SAKAI

December 5:

Submit: 2 Responses to Discussion Post 10

### **Wrapping Up the Course: Politics Beyond the Ancient World**

December 8:

Read: Machiavelli's *The Prince*\*

Schlosser, *Herodotus and the Anthropocene* (excerpts)\*

Honig, *Antigone, Interrupted* (excerpts)\*

December 10:

Submit: Writing Exercise 3 due to SAKAI 'Assignment'

[Note: this workshop will NOT take place during class time. Students should complete assignment asynchronously]

December 18:

**Group Notes due to Professor Hanley via email or link by 11:59 PM**

**Final Paper due to Sakai 'Assignment' by 11:59 PM**