

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Political Science 223  
Ancient Political Philosophy  
Fall, 1999

Professor Gillespie  
308 Perkins  
Off. hours: Wed. 1-3

This course will consider ancient political philosophy through an examination of the works of Homer, Sophocles, Thucydides, Plato and Aristotle. Our general focus will be the question of the role of wisdom in politics. This will include a consideration of the nature of justice and the just regime, the problem of tyranny, the character of philosophy and the possibility of virtue as a basis of political life. The course will concentrate upon a close and critical reading of the primary sources and will be run as a seminar. Class participation will be essential and a thorough preparation for class is presupposed.

For undergraduates a 10-15 page paper and a final will be required. The paper is due Oct. 13, 1999 at 12:00 Noon. For graduate students a 10-15 page paper is required if it is completed by December 13; thereafter a 20-30 page paper. The paper and final will constitute 70% of the final grade and class participation the remaining 30% for undergraduates. For graduate students the paper will count 70% and class participation 30% of the final grade.

Required purchases are:

Homer, The Iliad  
Plato, The Republic, trans. Allan Bloom  
Plato, The Death of Socrates  
Aristotle, The Nichomachean Ethics  
Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War  
Greene, David, ed., Greek Tragedies, vol. 1

The daily assignments will be as follows:

Aug.	31	Introduction
Sept.	2	Homer, <u>Iliad</u>
	7	
	9	
	14	
	16	
	21	Sophocles, <u>Oedipus the King</u> in <u>Greek Tragedies</u> , pp. 111-150

- 23 pp. 150-176
- 28 Thucydides,
- 30 Plato, Apology, Crito
- Oct. 5 Plato, Republic, 327a-335b
- 7 336b-367e
- 12 No Class- Fall Break
- 14 368a-403c
- 19 403c-445e
- 21 449a-473e
- 26 473e-511d
- 28 511d-541a  
Plato, "Seventh Letter" (Xerox)
- Nov. 2 543a-580d
- 4 580d-621d
- 9 Aristotle, Nichomachean Ethics, 1094a-1107a28
- 11 1107a-1119b20  
Herodotus, The Histories, pp. 476-95 (xerox)
- 16 Bk. IV
- 18 Bk. V
- 23 Bk. VI
- 25 No Class- Thanksgiving Break
- 30 Bk. VII
- 2 No class

- 7 Bk. VIII and IX  
9 Bk. X  
13 Graduate papers due

Other primary works in Greek political philosophy of interest to students:

Aristotle,	<u>The Rhetoric</u> <u>The Constitution of Athens</u> <u>On the Soul</u> <u>The Politics</u>
Aeschylus,	<u>The Oresteia</u>
Euripides,	<u>Hippolytus</u> <u>Bacchae</u>
Herodotus,	<u>The Histories</u>
Homer,	<u>Odyssey</u>
Plato,	<u>The Laws</u> <u>The Gorgias</u> <u>Statesman</u>
Polybios,	<u>Histories</u>
Plutarch,	<u>Solon</u> <u>Lycurgus</u> <u>Alexander</u> <u>Julius Caesar</u>
Sophocles,	<u>Antigone</u> <u>Oedipus at Colonnus</u>