

SOSC 15100  
University of Chicago  
Fall 2013

Michael L. Thomas  
GB 218B  
F: 10:30am - Noon  
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## Classics of Social and Political Thought I

Section 3: TTh 10:30am – 11:50am, Cobb 319

### Course Requirements:

- 1) **Class Participation:** Classics is designed as a seminar class and, as such, students are expected to actively participate in class discussion. To aid participation, the course will be divided into groups that will be responsible for presenting passages for discussion at the beginning of each class on alternating days. Discussion questions should not only focus on 1-2 particular passages of the text, but be accompanied by an attempt to interpret the passage in the context of the reading to ground the rest of the class' discussion.
- 2) **Short Papers:** At the conclusion of the first two sections of the course, on Plato and Aristotle, students will be required to complete a short 3-5 page paper on a topic given by the instructor, or of the student's choosing with instructor approval.
- 3) **Final Paper:** The final project will be a 7-9 page paper developed by the student based upon their interests in the course and a discussion with the instructor.

**Format Guidelines:** Writing assignments should be submitted to the instructor via email by 4:30 pm of the date the assignment is due. Submissions should be in .doc or .pdf format and typed in 12pt Times New Roman, or equivalent font, with 1" margins. Citations of course texts are required, but no bibliography is necessary unless the student uses an unassigned text for the assignment.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend each class meeting except for cases of illness or religious observance. Students with more than two unexcused absences will have their grades lowered by 1/3 of a letter grade. Students with four or more unexcused absences will receive a failing grade for the course.

**Grades:** Short papers 20% each; Final Paper 40%; Attendance and Participation 20%.

**Late Paper Policy:** Unless excused, late papers will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day. However, each student may take a 24-hour extension for *one* of the two papers. (If you choose to use your extension, please indicate this on the front page of your paper.)

### Course Texts:

These texts will all be available for purchase from the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore. *These editions of the texts are required.*

- 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Hackett, 2003)
- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (University of Chicago Press, 1998)

## Reading Schedule:

1.1. Tue, 10/1: Introduction

1.2. Thurs, 10/3: Plato's *Republic*, Book I (pp. 3-34)

2.1. Tue, 10/8: *Republic*, Books II & III (pp. 35-96).

2.2. Thurs, 10/10: *Republic*, Book IV to Book V 471e (pp. 97-152).

3.1. Tue, 10/15: *Republic*, Book V 471e to Book VII 531c (pp. 152-211).

3.2. Thurs, 10/17: *Republic*, Book VII 531d to Book IX 576b (pp. 211-256).

4.1. Tue, 10/22: *Republic*, Book IX 576b-592b to end of Book X (pp. 256-303)

4.2. Thurs, 10/24: Aristotle, *Politics* Book I chapters 1-7, 12-13; Book II chapters 1-5, 7-8

**\*\*\* Tue 10/29: FIRST PAPER DUE \*\*\***

5.1 Tue, 10/29: *Politics* Book III

5.2. Thurs, 10/31: *Politics* Book IV chapters 1-2, 4-9, 11, 12; Book V chapters 1, 5-9; Book VI chapter 5

6.1. Tue, 11/5: *Politics* Book VII chapters 1-5, 7, 9-10, 13-15; Book VIII chapter 1

6.2. Thurs, 11/7: Alfarabi, *The Political Regime* (Chalk)

7.1. Tue, 11/12: Alfarabi, *The Attainment of Happiness* and excerpt from *Philosophy of Plato* (Chalk)

7.2. Thurs, 11/14: Aquinas (all selections are in *On Law, Morality, and Politics*), *Summa Theologica* I-II Questions 90-95 (pp. 10-59).

8.1. Tue, 11/19: Aquinas, continued: *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 (pp. 100-101); Q. 58 A. 2 (pp. 107-108); Q. 40 A. 1 (pp. 164-67); Q. 104 A. 5-6 (pp. 182-85); Q. 42 A. 2 (pp. 188-89); Q. 10 A. 8, 11, Q. 11 A. 3, *Commentary on the Sentences*, *Distinctions* 44, 37 (pp. 190-96); *On Kingship* I 6 (pp. 207-210)

**\*\*\* Tue : SECOND PAPER DUE \*\*\***

8.2. Thurs, 11/22: Machiavelli, *The Prince* Letter & Chapters I-VI; *Discourses on Livy* Letter, I Preface, 9-10, 19-20, 58, II 2, III 30.1 (Chalk)

9.1. Tue, 11/26: *Prince* Chapters VII-XIV; *Discourses* I 11-12, 18.4, 27; 1 Samuel 17:12 to 18:9

9.2. Thurs, 11/28: Aristotle, *Politics* Book V Chapters 10-11; *Prince* Chapters XV-XIX; *Discourses* III 40-42

10.1. Tue, 12/3: *Prince* Chapters XX-XXVI; *Discourses* III 9;

10.2. Thurs, 11/5: **READING PERIOD**

**Final Paper Due Thursday Dec, 12 by Noon via Email**