VIRTUE AND GLORY: CLASSICAL POLITICAL THEORY

Fall 2011
Mon., Wed. 1:10 – 2:30 p.m.
Room 104 PAC

Office: 310 PAC, x 2489
Hours: Mon. 3–4 p.m., Tues. 1:30-2:00 p.m., Thurs. 4-5 p.m., & by appointment

This course is part of our three-course unit, Govt. 337, 338 and 339, on Classical, Modern, and Contemporary Political Theory. In "Virtue and Glory" we will survey some of the major classical political theorists, giving attention to their theoretical innovations, historical contexts, and relevance for today.

Texts: The following books are required for purchase:

Saint Augustine, *The Essential Augustine*, ed. Vernon Bourke (Hackett)

These books are optional to buy:


Readings on Reserve:

Copies of books on the syllabus are available on 4-hour reserve at Olin library. Readings listed are required except for those in parentheses, which are optional; readings marked passim can be skimmed. Articles and some book chapters are available through ERes, electronic reserve, or I will provide an on-line address. Assignments will also be made to George Sabine (and Thomas Thorson), *A History of Political Theory*, 4th ed. (The 3rd ed. has the assigned chapters, one number lower, e.g. Ch.18= Ch. 17). For additional background and commentary, see Sheldon Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, Isaac Kramnick, ed., *Essays in the History of Political Thought*, Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, Arlene Saxonhouse, *Women in the History of Political Thought*, Isadore Twersky, ed., *A Maimonides Reader*, and the *New Oxford Annotated Bible*.

Requirements:

Readings completed by the date for which they are assigned. One essay (2-3 pp.), due Friday, Sept. 23. Mid-term quiz, Monday, Oct. 31. Second paper (3-5 pp.), due Monday, Nov. 21. Paper topics to be announced in class. Final exam.
Samuel Ebb will serve as Teaching Apprentice and is available to help with the assignments, as am I.

**Syllabus**

Sept. 5  Introduction

I. Citizens and Political Philosophy in Ancient Greece
   A. City-State

Sept. 7  Plato, *Apology* and *Crito* (and *Phaedo*, 114d-118)


http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp

(George Sabine and Thomas Thorson, *A History of Political Theory*, Ch. 2, “The City-State,” and Ch. 3, "Political Thought Before Plato")

B. Eros and Justice; Knowledge and Political Rule

Sept. 12  Plato, *Republic*, Book I

John Rawls, “Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical,” in Shlomo Avineri and Avner de-Shalit, eds., *Communitarianism and Individualism*, pp. 186-204

Sept. 14  Plato, *Republic*, Bks. II-IV

(Sabine, Ch. 4, "Plato, the Republic")


(Arlene Saxonhouse, *Women in the History of Political Thought*, Ch. 2 passim., and in Ch. 3, pp. 37-52)

Sept. 21  Plato, *Republic*, Bks. VIII-IX, (X)

(Sheldon Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, Ch. 2, "Plato: Political Philosophy versus Politics"

Sept. 23  ESSAY DUE
C. Friendship and Justice; Constitutions and Political Institutions

Sept. 26  Aristotle, Politics, Book 1; Bk. 2, Chs. 1-5, (Ch. 6 passim.)

(Wolin, Ch. 1, "Political Philosophy and Philosophy")

(Robin Schott, "On Aristotle, On Women," Yale University, 1979, unpub.)

Sept. 28  Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1; Bk. 5

Alasdair MacIntyre, “Justice as a Virtue: Changing Conceptions,” in Avineri and de-Shalit, eds., Communitarianism and Individualism, pp. 51-64

Oct. 3  Aristotle, Politics, Bk. 3; Bk. 4, Chs. 1-13; 14-16 passim.

(Sabine, Ch. 6, "Aristotle: Political Ideals")

Oct. 5  Aristotle, Politics, Bk. 5, Chs. 1-4; Bk. 6, Chs. 1-5; Bk. 7, Chs. 1-15; 16-17 passim.

(Sabine, Ch. 7, "Aristotle: Political Actualities")


Oct. 10  Aristotle, Ethics, Bks. 2-4 passim.; (Bk. 6); Bks. 8-9

(Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue, Chs. 10-11, "The Virtues in Heroic Societies" and “The Virtues at Athens” passim., Ch. 12, "Aristotle's Account of the Virtues")

II. Monotheism and Medieval Political Philosophy

A. Early Christianity: Creation, Sin, and Grace


(Sabine, Ch. 11, “Seneca and the Fathers of the Church”)
Oct. 17  Augustine, Ch. IX, “The Two Cities”

_Bible_, Genesis 1-4; 6.1-10; 11.1-9; 16-17; 21.1-21; 25; 27

B.  _Islam: Prophecy and Law_


Oct. 31  Averroes, “The Decisive Treatise,” in Parens and Macfarland, pp. 123-140; (General biblio. pp. 141-143)

Oct. 31  QUIZ

C.  _Judaism: Political Founding and Legislation_

Nov. 2  Maimonides, Excerpts from ”Logic,” ”Guide of the Perplexed,” and ”Eight Chapters,” in Parens and Macfarland, pp. 180-205

(Maimonides, “Eight Chapters,” in Isadore Twersky, ed., _A Maimonides Reader_, pp. 361-386)


_Bible_, Genesis 9.1-17; 15.7-20; 17.1-27
Exodus 19-23.22; 32
I Samuel 8; 12; II Samuel 5.1-5; 8.15

(cont.)
D. Reconciling Reason and Revelation

**Natural Law**

Nov. 9

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, I-II, Ques. 90; 91; 93, arts. 1-3, 6; Q. 94, arts. 4, 6; Q. 95, art. 1; Q. 96, (Q. 97), in Dino Bigongiari, ed.


**Kingship**

Nov. 14

Aquinas, *De Regimine Principum*, Bk. I, Chs. 1, 2, in Bigongiari, ed., and Chs. 7, 14, 15 (xerox); *Summa Theol.*, I-II, Ques. 105; II-II, Q. 57, arts. 2-4; Q. 58; Q. 104, arts. 1, 5-6; Q. 42, art. 2; Q. 66, arts 2, 7; Q. 78, art. 1

(Sabine, Ch. 14, "Universitas Hominum")

IV. Breakdown of the Medieval Synthesis

A. Glory at Rome

Nov. 16


B. Custom and Statute

Nov. 21

(Sabine, Ch. 12, “The Folk and Its Law”)


Nov. 21

PAPER DUE

C. Church, State and Empire

Nov. 28

(John Morrall, *Political Thought in Medieval Times*, Chs. 1-2, “What Was ‘Medieval’ Political Thought?” and “Church, Empire, and Barbarians”)

Nov. 30  Marsilius of Padua, “The Defender of the Peace,” in Parens and Macfarland, pp. 376-378; Discourse 1, Ch. 3, 382-383 (Chs. 4-5, 383-388); Chs. 6-7, 388-391; Ch. 9, secs. 1-9, 392-395; Chs. 10-11, 12, secs. 1-5, 395-402; Ch. 13, secs. 1-7, 403-406; Discourse 2, Ch. 12, secs. 3-7, 407-408; 379 n.7.

(Sabine, Chs. 16-17, “Marsilio of Padua and William of Occam,” & “The Conciliar Theory of Church Government”)

D. Civic Humanism and Leadership: Earthly Glory

Dec. 5, 7  Machiavelli, The Prince

(Sabine, Ch. 18, “Machiavelli”)