2014

362-01 Ancient Political Philosophy

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Ancient Political Philosophy

(i) Texts
Required: Aristotle, *Politics*
Selection from Plato’s *Protagoras* and from other Aristotelian treatises on Blackboard

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy (an online source available through Xavier’s Library site)

(ii) Description
The course is an advanced introduction to Aristotle’s political philosophy with an emphasis on his theory of human nature and the dependence of the good life on the political community. The main text we will study is Aristotle’s *Politics*. To fully understand the theory of the *Politics*, a parallel discussion of selections from his treatise *On the Soul* and the *Nicomachean Ethics* is necessary. We will also cover parts of the *Categories*, the *Posterior Analytics*, and the *Metaphysics* to the degree that these texts help us understand the method that underlies the Aristotelian system.

(iii) Course Requirements and Evaluation
- Attendance, class participation (15%)
- Class presentation (15%)
- Midterm Exam and Final Exam (20% each)
- Term Paper (30%)

Grading Scale:
- A = 4.00
- B- = 2.67
- D+ = 1.33
- A- = 3.67
- C+ = 2.33
- D = 1.00
- B+ = 3.33
- C = 2.00
- D- = 0.67
- B = 3.00
- C- = 1.67
- F = 0.00

(iv) Meetings and Assignments

Week 1: January 13/15
Introduction: Plato, *Protagoras*, 314b-329e

Week 2: January 20

MLK HOLIDAY

January 22

Week 3: January 27/29
*Politics*, Bk I: The Facts of Experience about Communal Life

Week 4: February 3/5
*Categories*, ch. 1-5: How to Talk about Reality

Week 5: February 10/12
*Posterior Analytics*, Bk I, ch. 1-4; Bk II, ch. 19: Scientific Method
Metaphysics, Bk I, ch. 1-3; Bk VI, ch. 1: First Principles

Week 6: February 17/19
Politics, Bk III: The Principles of Political Science

Week 7: February 24/26
On the Soul, Bk II, ch. 1-4: What a Human Being is

Week 8: March 3/5 SPRING BREAK

Week 9: March 10/12
Nicomachean Ethics, Bk I: The Human Good; Bk II: Excellence of character

Week 10: March 17/19
Nicomachean Ethics, Bk VI: Intellectual Excellence; Bk X, ch. 6-9: Happiness

Week 11: March 24/26
Politics, Bk 7: The Best Constitution; Bk 8: Education

Week 12: March 31/April 2
Politics, Bk 4: Actual Constitutions

Week 13: April 7/9
Politics, Bk 5: Political Pathology: Revolutions

Week 14: April 14/16
Politics, Bk 6: Democracy and Oligarchy

Week 15: April 21 EASTER HOLIDAY
April 23

Week 16: April 28/30
Conclusions

Week 17: Exam Week

Note: The syllabus is subject to change.

It the responsibility of the student to familiarize him/herself with the full text of the University Policies included in the most recent Undergraduate Catalogue and especially with the Academic Honesty policy.