**PS 101 Mr. Dry**

**Introduction to Political Philosophy Fall 2021**

**I. Required Texts (available via on line bookstore or on Amazon)**

A. Plato, Republic (Bloom trans. Basic Books)

B. Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics (Bartlett/Collins trans. Chicago)

C. Aristotle, Politics (Lord trans. Chicago)

D. Aquinas: On Law, Morality, and Politics (Regan & Baumgarth ed. (Hackett)

E. Machiavelli, The Prince (Mansfield trans. Chicago)

F. Hobbes, Leviathan (Richard Tuck ed. Cambridge)

G. Locke, Two Treatises of Government (Lasslett ed. Cambridge)

H. Rousseau, The First and Second Discourses

(Masters & Masters eds. & trans. St. Martins)

I. Karl Marx: Selected Writings, (Simon ed. Hackett)

J. Nietzsche, The Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life

(Preuss trans; Hackett)

(Recommended: Plato and Aristophanes, Four Texts on Socrates West and West, eds. & trans. Cornell)

The following required essay will be available electronically: Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation,” from Gerth and Mills eds. From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology, (Oxford UP)

# II. Epigraphs Descriptive of Themes Studied in this Course

“The meaning of political philosophy and its meaningful character is as evident today as it always has been since the time when political philosophy came to light in Athens. All political action aims at either preservation or change. When desiring to preserve, we wish to prevent a change for the worse; when desiring to change, we wish to bring about something better. All political action is then guided by some thought of better and worse. But thought of better or worse implies thought of the good. The awareness of the good which guides all our actions has the character of opinion; it is no longer questioned, but, on reflection, it proves to be questionable. The very fact that we can question it directs us toward such a thought of the good as is no longer questionable--towards a thought which is no longer opinion but knowledge. All political action has then in itself a directedness towards knowledge of the good: of the good life, or of the good society. For the good society is the complete political good.” Leo Strauss, What is Political Philosophy?

"Yet the active way of life is not necessarily to be regarded as being in relation to others, as some suppose, nor those thoughts alone as being active which arise from activity for the sake of what results, but rather much more those that are complete in themselves, and the sorts of study and ways of thinking that are for their own sake." Aristotle, Politics VII-3 1325b-16-21

"And for its value and utility it must be plainly avowed that that wisdom which we have derived principally from the Greeks is but like the boyhood of knowledge, and has the characteristic of boys: it can talk, but it cannot generate, for it is fruitful of controversies but barren of works." Francis Bacon, New Organon (Preface)

"Ancient politicians incessantly talked about morals and virtue, those of our time talk only of business and money." Rousseau, First Discourse

**III. Schedule of Lectures and Discussions**

**Week #1 September 14-20**

(The academic weeks are listed from the Tuesday lecture through the Friday/Monday discussions.

Tuesday Lecture: Plato, Apology of Socrates

Thursday Lecture: Republic I (pp. 1-34)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Republic II (pp. 35-61)

Writing Assignment: Write three hundred words on the argument that either Glaucon or Adeimantus makes to Socrates and the assignment they give him.

**Week #2 September 21-27**

Tuesday Lecture: Republic III (pp. 63-96)

Thursday Lecture: Republic IV (pp. 97-125)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Republic V-VI to 487a(pp.127-167)

**Week #3 September 28- October 4**

Tuesday Lecture: Republic VI-VII (pp. 167-220)

Thursday Lecture: Republic VIII-IX (pp. 221-275)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Republic X (pp. 277-303

**Week #4 October 5-11**

Tuesday Lecture: Aristotle, Ethics I-II (pp. 1-41)

Thursday Lecture: Ethics III, 1-7, 10-11; IV, 1-3, 9; V, 1-7 (pp. 42-56,

62-65, 67-80, 88-89, 90-106)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Ethics VI, (pp. 115-134)

**Week #5 October 12-18**

Tuesday Lecture: Ethics VIII, X, 4-9 (pp. 163-187, 216-235)

Thursday Lecture: Aristotle, Politics Book I and II, ch. 1-5 (pp. 1-34)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Aristotle, Politics, III (pp. 62-96)

**Note: The Monday discussions will meet Friday at 4:00 PM.**

**Week #6 October 19-25**

Tuesday: Midterm Recess

Thursday Lecture: Politics, IV (pp. 97-128)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Politics VII, VIII, chapters 1-3 (pp. 187-227)

**Week #7 October 26- November1**

Tuesday: Midterm Examination

Thursday Lecture Aquinas, Summa Theologica,

Assignment tba

Friday/Monday Discussion: Aquinas tba

**Week # 8 November 2-8**

Tuesday Lecture: Machiavelli, The Prince, Epistle Dedicatory, ch. I-XVIII (pp. 3-71)

Thursday Lecture: The Prince, ch. XIX-XXVI (pp. 71-111)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Leviathan, Author’s Intro. ch. 13-15 (pp. 86-111)

**Week #9 November 9-15**

Tuesday Lecture: Leviathan, chapters 1-6

Thursday Lecture: Leviathan, chapters 7-12

Friday/Monday Discussion: Leviathan 16-19

**Note: All Discussions will be on Monday at 4:30 PM**

**Week # 10 November 16-22**

Tuesday Lecture: Leviathan, chapters 21, 29-30

Thursday Lecture: Locke, Second Treatise, chapters I-VI (pp. 267-318)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Locke, Second Treatise, chapters VII-XIV (pp. 318-174)

Second Treatise, VII-XIV (pp. 318-374)

Thursday Lecture:

Friday/Monday Discussion Rousseau, Second Discourse,

Epistle dedicatory, preface, exordium, part one (pp. 78-141)

# Week #11 November 23-29

Tuesday Lecture: Second Treatise, XV-XIX (pp. 374-428)

Thursday-Friday Thanksgiving Vacation

All Discussions will be held on Monday at 4:30 PM

Monday Discussion: Rousseau, Rousseau, Second Discourse,

Epistle dedicatory, preface, exordium, part one (pp. 78-141)

**Week #12 November 30- December 6**

Tuesday Lecture: Second Discourse, part two (pp. 141- Rousseau, Second Discourse,

Epistle dedicatory, preface, exordium, part one (pp. 78-141)

Thursday Lecture: Marx, The Communist Manifesto, The Jewish Question

Friday/Monday Discussion: The German Ideology

**Week #13 December 7-13**

Tuesday: Marx, Capital

Thursday: Nietzsche, The Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life

Friday/Monday, Nietzsche, Max Weber, Science as a Vocation

IV. Lectures and Discussion Sections. All lectures will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 4:15 PM in Axinn 103. The weekly discussions will meet on Friday at 9:05 and 10:10 AM and on Monday at 9:05 and at 10:10 AM in Munroe 406.

V. Requirements. There will be a ninety-minute mid-term examination, a one thousand word essay, and a three-hour final examination. In addition, a one-page essay will be assigned in the first week; it will be read and returned with comments but no grades. All students are expected to come to all classes on time, with the assigned text and prepared to discuss the reading.

VI. Office Hours

My office is in Munroe 310 and my extension is 5305. My office hours are Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 6 PM and by appointment. My email address is [dry@middlebury.edu](mailto:dry@middlebury.edu). I am available for Zoom meetings by appointment.