**PS 101 Mr. Dry**

**Introduction to Political Philosophy Fall 2024**

**I. Required Texts (available via online 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, Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas (Modern Library)\*

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)

\*Since this preferred edition is out of print, pick up a copy outside Munroe 310.

\*\*Plato and Aristophanes, Four Texts on Socrates West and West, translation is

available on line.

To be handed out: Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation,” from Gerth and Mills eds. From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology, (Oxford UP)

Class Meetings: Lectures: T/H 2:15-3:30 PM in Munroe 311; Discussions, F 9:45-10:35 AM; M 9:45-10:30 AM in Old Chapel 206

# 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 10-16**

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

Tuesday Lecture: Plato, Apology of Socrates (read this in the West and West translation, from Four Texts on Socrates (Cornell UP); An online version is available.

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 17-23**

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 24- 30**

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 1-7**

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 8-14**

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: Due to the Friday recess, that section will meet on Monday at 4:30 PM in Munroe (room tba)**

**Week #6 October 15-21**

Tuesday Lecture: Politics, IV-VI (selections tba)

Thursday Lecture: Politics VII, VIII, chapters 1-3 (pp. 187-227)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Aquinas, Summa Theologica, Summa Contra Gentiles.

(From Intro to St. Thomas Aquinas, Pegis ed. Pp. 3-5, 8-9, 20-27, 442-447, 453-467

**Week #7 October 22- 28**

Tuesday: Aquinas Summa Theologica On Law, Questions 90, 91, 94, 95 A 1-2, 96 A4

(pp. 609-627, 634-650)

Thursday: Midterm Examination

Friday/Monday Discussion: Machiavelli, The Prince, Epistle Dedicatory,

chapters I-XV (pp. 3-62)

**Week # 8 October 29-November 4**

Tuesday Lecture: The Prince, chapters XVI-XXVI (pp. 62-111)

Thursday Lecture: Hobbes, Leviathan, Author’s Introduction, chapters 1-12

Friday/Monday Discussion: Leviathan, chapters 13-15

**Week #9 November 5-11**

Tuesday Lecture: Leviathan, chapters 16-19

Thursday Lecture: Leviathan, chapters 21, 29-30

Friday/Monday Discussion: Locke, Second Treatise, chapters I-VI

**Week # 10 November 12-18**

Tuesday Lecture: Second Treatise, chapters. VII-XIV

Thursday Lecture: Locke, Second Treatise, chapters XV-XIX (318-374)

Friday/Monday Discussion: Rousseau, Second Discourse, Epistle dedicatory, preface, exordium, part one (pp. 78-141) (Monday discussions after Thanksgiving)

Week #11 **November 19- December 2** **(Thanksgiving Break: November 18 to 26)**

Tuesday Lecture: Second Discourse, part two (pp. 141-181)

Thursday: Marx, The Communist Manifesto, The Jewish Question (pp. 2-21)

Friday/ Monday Discussion: Theses on Feuerbach, German Ideology (pp. 98-101,

104-126 top, 129-132, 147-155) The Friday discussion takes place before the

Thanksgiving break and the Monday discussion after the break.

**Week #12 December 3-9**

Tuesday Lecture: Capital (pp. 220-293)

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

Friday/Monday Discussion: Max Weber, Science as a Vocation

(Aristotle, Politics, III, 9)

V. Requirements. **There will be a 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.** **Note: The use of ChatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is not allowed in this class.**

VI. Office Hours

My office is in Munroe 310 and my extension is 5305. My cell phone is 802-989-5349. 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.