

HNRS 380-10

POLITICAL TRADITIONS OF THE WEST

Block One, Fall Semester, August 20 - September 12, 2007

INSTRUCTOR: Jeff Lokey

CLASSROOM: Niswonger Room 401

OFFICE: Charles Oliver Gray, Room 212

OFFICE HOURS: 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

OFFICE PHONE: 1-800-729-0256, ext. 5283

OFFICE E-MAIL: jlokey@tusculum.edu

TEXTS: *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*, edited by Mitchell Cohen and Nicole Fermon; *Imperium* by Robert Harris; *Sister Revolutions* by Susan Dunn.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will acquaint the student with the republican tradition of responsible and virtuous citizenship and of the individual rights tradition as they were developed in Europe and America. Some consideration will be given to the relevance of these traditions for the world at large in the twenty-first century.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The civic republican and the individual rights traditions concern two distinct conceptions of political community. Students performing satisfactorily in this course should be able to demonstrate that they:

1. understand the historical development of these two traditions
2. can compare and contrast the ways in which the two traditions deal with the question of the ultimate purpose of government, the nature of citizenship, the tradition of constitutionalism, contending views of liberty, and the boundary between public and private.
3. understand how the interplay of the two traditions formed and continues to influence the American political system.
4. have examined the relevance of these two traditions to politics in the world of the 21st century.
5. have the ability to read analytically and to engage in clear, effective written and oral communication.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Quizzes - 20%

Mid-Term Examination - 30%

Final Examination - 30%

Oral Presentation - 10%

Participation (discussion, group work) - 10%

READING ASSIGNMENTS: The three texts adopted for this honors section of the course, "Political Traditions of the West," will help students distinguish between two schools of political thought about the relationship between the individual and the government. In one political tradition, sometimes labeled civic republicanism, the prerogatives of the community, as expressed by its governing body, assume priority over individual interests. Individuals develop their potentialities through civic participation. The rights tradition, on the other hand, gives pride of place to the individual. The community achieves its ends through the free choices of its individual members.

We will examine the theoretical underpinnings of these two traditions by reading selections from the works of Aristotle, Cicero, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Madison, Hamilton, J.S. Mill and Tocqueville. In the novel, *Imperium*, which chronicles Cicero's rise to power in late republic Rome, students will see how the corruption of public affairs by private interests can threaten constitutional order. The book, *Sister Revolutions*, compares and contrasts the American and French Revolutions. After reading Dunn's analysis, students should better understand how civic republicanism and the rights tradition influence definitions of government, citizenship, and freedom and how the two perspectives shape constitutional language and general public discourse.

ORAL PRESENTATION: Each student must choose one political theorist included in the book, *Princeton Readings in Political Thought* but not assigned for reading and explain that thinker's major ideas and relevance to our political traditions in an oral presentation of at least 10 minutes. The public speaking competency guidelines will be used to evaluate the presentation.

READING ASSESSMENT: Short-answer quizzes will require students to remember the main ideas and most important information from their readings. The mid-term examination will test students' comprehension of the primary source material from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*. Students will be asked to relate the ideas of major political theorists to civic republicanism and the rights tradition. On the final examination, students will demonstrate their understanding of the books, *Imperium* and *Sister Revolutions* by explaining how the Roman republic, the American Revolution and the French Revolution influenced the political traditions of the West. The content of the oral presentation will also provide an opportunity to evaluate students' reading skill.

WRITING ASSESSMENT: Students will write formal essay responses to the questions on both the mid-term and the final examination. The writing competency criteria will be used in the grading of the essay answers.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday, Aug 20 - Course Introduction; Pericles' Funeral Oration from *The History of the Peloponnesian War* by Thucydides; Lysander's speech at Ephesus from the novel *The Tides of War* by Stephen Pressfield.

Tues. Aug. 21 - *The Apology* by Plato from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought* ;
Crito by Plato (<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html>); Herodotus, *Histories* (3.80-82) "The Persian conspirators" (Handout).

Wed. Aug. 22 - *The Politics* by Aristotle and *On the Republic* by Cicero from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*

Thurs. Aug. 23 - *The Treatise on Law* by St. Thomas Aquinas and *Discourses on Livy* by Niccolo Machiavelli from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*

Fri. Aug. 24 - *The Leviathan* by Thomas Hobbes from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*

Mon. Aug. 27 - *Second Treatise on Government* by John Locke from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*

Tues. Aug. 28 - *On the Social Contract* and *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men* from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*

Wed. Aug. 29 - *The Federalist Papers* by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought*

Thurs. Aug. 30 - *On Liberty* by John Stuart Mill and *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville from *Princeton Readings in Political Thought* ; **Mid-term Examination**

Fri. Aug. 31 - Roll I through Roll IV of *Imperium*

Mon. Sept. 3 - Roll V through Roll VIII of *Imperium*

Tues. Sept. 4 - Roll IX through Roll XI of *Imperium*

Wed. Sept. 5 - Roll XII through Roll XV of *Imperium*

Thurs. Sept. 6 - Roll XVI through XVIII of *Imperium*

Fri. Sept. 7 - Chs. 1 and 2 of *Sister Revolutions*

Mon. Sept. 10 - Ch. 3 of *Sister Revolutions*

Tues. Sept. 11 - Chs. 4 and 5 of *Sister Revolutions*

Wed. Sept. 12 - Chs. 6 and 7 of *Sister Revolutions*; **Final Examination**

GRADING SCALE:

A = 95 - 100

A- = 90 - 94

B+ = 87 - 89

B = 83 - 86
B- = 80 - 82
C+ = 77 - 79
C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72
D+ = 67 - 69
D = 60 - 66
Failure = Below 60

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. You will treat everyone in class, including the professor, with respect.
2. You will bring the required course materials to class each day.
3. You will prepare for and attend every class.
4. You will agree to do the work outlined in the syllabus on time.
5. You will acknowledge that previous academic preparation will affect your performance in this course.
6. You will acknowledge that grades are based on performance, and effort might not be sufficient to ensure a distinguished grade.
7. You will not plagiarize or otherwise steal the work of others.

PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. I will treat you with respect.
2. I will be prepared for every class.
3. I will begin and end class on time.
4. I will return your work in a timely manner with appropriate feedback.
5. I will pursue the maximum punishment for academic misconduct.
6. I will keep careful records of your attendance, performance and progress.
7. I will investigate every excuse for nonattendance of classes and nonperformance of expectations.
8. I will make myself available to you for advising.
9. I will maintain confidentiality concerning your performance.
10. I will evaluate your work on its merits only.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Cheating and plagiarism are violations of Ethics of Social Responsibility-one of the competencies that we have identified as essential to the Civic Arts. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. It consists of knowingly presenting in writing or in speech the intellectual or creative work of others as if it were one's own. This includes:

- 1) Failing to identify direct or word-for-word quotations by use of appropriate symbols and reference to the source
 - 2) Restating in your own words the work (ideas, conclusions, words) of another without reference to the source
 - 3) Presenting as your own the creative work (for instance, music or photographs) of another without proper acknowledgment.
- Besides plagiarism, other forms of academic dishonesty include the following:
- 4) Submitting the same work in two or more courses without significant modifications or expansion and without the approval of the instructors involved.
 - 5) Submitting purchased, borrowed, copied, or specially commissioned work as if it were one's own
 - 6) Knowingly permitting others to submit your work under their names
 - 7) Copying the work of others during an examination or other academic exercise
 - 8) Knowingly allowing others to copy your work during an examination or other academic exercise
 - 9) Using "cheat sheets" or any other unauthorized form of assistance during an exam, quiz, or other academic exercise
 - 10) Manipulating or fabricating data to support erroneous conclusions

CLASS ATTENDANCE: Students are responsible for all work from the first day of class and are expected to attend all meetings of the class. Absence for whatever reason, including participation in a college-sponsored event, does not relieve a student from responsibility for any part of the work covered in the class during the period of absence. During a block, students may miss up to three classes to participate in college-sponsored events (not to include fund-raising) without penalizing their grade. Students who miss more than three classes (or 9 hours) will fail the course. In case of illness or emergency, students should notify the instructor prior to the class session that will be missed.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND LEARNING DISABILITIES:

Please contact the *Learning Support Services Office of the Academic Resource Center* for any disability-related accommodations, services, or inquiries. The office can also provide or arrange additional academic support services.
Phone: On campus dial extension 5379; off campus at 1-423-636-7379 or 1-800-729-0256, ext. 5153.

E-Mail: jjones@tusculum.edu or nkilday@tusculum.edu

Location: The Learning Support Services Office is located on the 1st floor of the Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Building, Room 100.

Mailing Address: Tusculum College

Learning Support Services Office

Box 5065

Greeneville, Tn. 37743