POLS 3710 and PHIL 4360
Ancient and Medieval Classics in Political Thought
Fall 2021
MWF 12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Instructor: Professor Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.
Office: McGannon Hall 149
Email: chris.duncan@slu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:30 and by appointment.
Phone: 314-977-9862

Class Meets: MWF 12:00-12:50 in TBD

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce the student to some of the most important Western political thinkers and ideas of the classical and medieval world. It will focus on both the individual theorists as well as the concrete historical and political situations which they confronted through their writings. The ultimate aims of the course are two-fold: First, to have the student of political thought achieve an understanding of the theorists and ideas discussed and the alternative solutions to political problems they provided; second, to help the student gain greater clarity about their own moral and political beliefs.

The readings assigned in the course are not easy and in many cases they presuppose a political culture and historical context which is very different from our own. To be successful in the course and get the most out of it the student should spend some time with the texts and assigned readings confronting what the various theorists have to say. The student should constantly sit in judgement of the writer's assertions and conclusions. The successful student will be the one who not only masters the work at hand but moves beyond it in developing his or her own theoretical understandings and account of political activity.

Attributes: Global Local Justice-Theory, Social Science Requirement (A&S)

Required Texts*

1. *The Orestes Plays of Aeschylus*, by Aeschylus
2. *The Three Theban Plays*, by Sophocles
3. *A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues* by Plato (edited by C.D.C Reeve)
4. *The Politics*, by Aristotle (edited by Carnes Lord)
5. *Political Writings*, by Augustine
6. *Policraticus: The Statesman's Handbook*, by John of Salisbury
7. The Bible (any version will suffice, though the instructor works from *The Jerusalem Bible Reader's Edition)*

*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester and are noted with the term "e-version" in the syllabus.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(2) Exams	300 points (150 pts. Each)
(10) Quizzes	100 points (10 pts. each)
	400 points total

Grade Scale in Points

400-368=	A
367-360=	A-
359-348=	B+
347-328=	B
327-320=	B-
319-312=	C+
311-288=	C
387-280=	C-
279-220=	D
Below 220=	F

Quizzes

The quizzes will be multiple choice and administered through the **Canvas** page for the course. They will open and close at specific times and there are no "makeups" given if one is missed.

Examinations

Both exams will be take-home exams and will consist of short answer questions and longer comparative essay questions. The second exam is **not** cumulative.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

September 6	No Class (Labor Day)
October 1	No Class (APSA Meeting)
October 15	No Class
October 29	No Class (Fall Break)
November 24-26	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Course Outline

Dates **Topic**

August 25 **Introduction to Political Theory & The Ancient City**
Readings: **None**

August 27-September 3 **The Tragic Moment and Sensibility**
Readings:

I. Blood Justice and the Origins of Politics

- Aeschylus, *The Agamemnon, The Libation Barriers, and The Eumenides.* (2 sessions)

Quiz 1: September 1

II. Tragedy and Politics

- Aeschylus, *Seven Against Thebes*
https://kosmossociety.chs.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Aeschylus-Seven-Against-Thebes.pdf
- Sophocles, *Antigone* (2 sessions)

Quiz 2: September 8

September 8-September 27 Plato and The Politics of the *Good*
Readings:

I. The Corruption of the State

- Plato, *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito,* (2 sessions)

Quiz 3: September 13

II. The Nature of Justice

- Plato, *The Republic Bks. I-III* (2 sessions)
- Plato, *The Republic Bks. IV-VII* (3 sessions)
- Plato, *The Republic Bks. VIII-X* (2 sessions)

Quiz 4: September 29

September 29-October 13 Aristotle and the Politics of *Nature*
Readings:

I. Political Character and a Common Moral Education
- Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics* (2 sessions/e-version)

Quiz 5: October 6

II. Nature, Politics, and Civic Virtue
- Aristotle, *The Politics Bk I, 1-9; Bk II, 1-5, 9; Bk 3, 1-2, 4-13* (2 sessions)
- Aristotle, *The Politics Bk IV, 1-7; Bk V 1-5; VII, 1-3, 13-15* (2 sessions)

Quiz 6: October 18

Midterm Exam Posted: October 18h
Midterm Due: October 25th before 5 p.m.

October 18-November 1 The *Bible* and The New Political Order
Readings:

I. Covenantal Politics
- *Genesis*: 1-3; *Exodus*: 3, 19-21, 34; *Deuteronomy*: 5-7, 13, 19-25, 28; *Job*: 40-41; *Psalms*: 2, 20, 23, 37, 72, 82; *Jeremiah*: 22 (10-23), 23 (1-5), 50-51; *Lamentations*: 2 (37-47), 4 (23-55); *Leviticus*: 1-4, 20. (2 sessions)

II. God v. The State
- *Amos* 4-5; *Micah*: 2-4; *Nahum*: 1-3; *Hosea*: 4-7; *Judges*: 1-8; *Samuel I*: 8-13, 15-17; *Samuel II*; *Kings I*: 1-5, 11-12; *Daniel*: 7-12; *Isiah*: 2-3, 5, 28, 32, 52-53, 56, 59-60; *Jeremiah*: 5, 22, 31 (29-40), 23, 34 (1-22), 50-51; *Matthew*: (All); *Luke*: 6 (12-49), 12, 16 (9-31), 17 (1-19), 20 (1-8), 22 (24-38).
(2 sessions)

III. The Law of Love
- *John*: 13-14; *Peter*: 2-3 (1-17); *Romans*: 3, 7, 13, 12 (9-21); *Corinthians I*: 12 (12-31), 13, 15; *James* (All); *Revelations*: 4-19 [optional], 20-21; *Galatians*: 3; *Acts*: 2, 4, 5, 8 (55-60), 9-11, 15, 17, 22-23.
(2 sessions)

Quiz 7: November 3

November 3-November 15 Augustine and God's *Politics*
Readings:

I. A Tale of Two Cities
Augustine, *The City of God*, Books I-VIII (2 sessions)
Augustine, *The City of God*, Books IX-XIX (2 sessions)
Augustine, *The City of God*, Books IX-XIX (2 sessions)

Quiz 8: November 17

November 17-December 1 Aquinas and the Politics of Natural Law
Readings:

I. The Politics of Order and Natural Law
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles* [selections/e-version] (2 sessions)
- Thomas Aquinas *Summa Theologica* [selections/e-version] (3 sessions)

Quiz 9: December 3

December 3-December 10 John of Salisbury and Kingship
Readings:

I. The Politics of Rule
- John of Salisbury, *Policraticus: The Statesmen's Handbook* Bks. I-IV (2 sessions)
- John of Salisbury, *Policraticus: The Statesmen's Handbook* Bks. V-VIII (2 sessions)

Quiz 10: December 11

Final Exam Posted: Monday, December 13th
Final Exam Due: Friday, December 17th before 5 p.m.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission. The

University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Disability Accommodations
Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at accessibility_disability@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

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Statement on Face Masks (2021-2022)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, key safeguards like face masks have allowed SLU to safely maintain in-person learning. If public health conditions and local, state, and federal restrictions demand it, the University may require that all members of our campus community wear face masks indoors.

Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class. This expectation will apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect, the following will apply:

- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.
- Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.

- Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University-wide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:
    - dismissal from the course(s)
    - removal from campus housing (if applicable)
    - dismissal from the University
- To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a University-wide face mask requirement.

When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's ADA Policy. Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity. Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

In-Person Class Attendance and Participation

The health and well-being of SLU's students, staff, and faculty are critical concerns, as is the quality of our learning environments. Accordingly, the following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any potential COVID-19 symptoms (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the University Student Health Center for immediate assistance.

2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID-19 symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.

3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the University Attendance Policy, students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with the instructor to complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on their health situation.

4. Consistent with the University Attendance Policy, students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a student's ability to attend and/or participate in class for an extended period of time.

5. As a temporary amendment to the current University Attendance Policy, all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, shall be considered "Authorized" absences

Discrimination Policy:
Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience**. This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (Du Bourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at https://www.lighthouse-services.com/_StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: https://www.slu.edu/here4you and https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: https://www.slu.edu/here4you. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.