

POLI 4081: POLITICAL THEORY FROM PLATO TO SIR JOHN FORTESCUE

Fall Semester 2010

Prof. Ellis Sandoz: 212 Stubbs Hall;
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10:40-Noon, TTh, Stubbs Hall 220

Conference hour: 12-1:00 p.m. daily or by appointment.

Required Texts:

- *Plato, Great Dialogues of Plato, trans. Rouse (NAL/Signet)
- *Voegelin, The New Science of Politics (NSP) (UChicago Press)
- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, trans. Ostwald (LLA/Macmillan)
- Aristotle, Politics, rev. ed., trans. T. A. Sinclair & T. J. Saunders (Penguin)
- Aquinas, Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas, ed. Bigongiari (Free Press)
- Bonaventure, Journey of the Mind to God, ed. S. F. Brown (Hackett)
- Corwin, Edward S. Higher Law Background of American Constitutional Law (Liberty Fund/Amagi Bks)
- Fortescue, On the Laws and Governance of England, ed. Lockwood (Cambridge UP)

*** Needed immediately!**

Course & Requirements: The purpose of the course is to acquaint advanced undergraduates and entering graduate students with some classics of ancient and medieval political philosophy through a close reading of a few texts, thereby tracing the lines of development of philosophical reflection on human reality from Hellenic antiquity to the Renaissance. The importance of this subject matter for Anglo-American constitutionalism and political theory is stressed; so also is the relation of classical and Christian theory to the restoration of political science so that it, once again, attains the status of a comprehensive philosophical science of human affairs. Hence we will emphasize theoretical understanding of personal, social, and historical dimensions of reality and their participatory connections.

All students are expected to: attend every class; keep up with the reading; and be prepared to enter into class discussion of assigned material. Bring to class the text under discussion! Grades are based on three (3) essay exams weighted at 30% +30% +40% (final). Review questions will be provided and review sessions organized. Graduate students only will be required to do a research paper of 6000+ words extent (see instructor by 9/14): a grade of AT LEAST "B" on the paper is necessary in order to qualify for a possible "A" in the course. Tests will cover the reading material as well as—and independently of—the lectures; you should, therefore, take notes on the reading so you know the contents and can review! Group study and outside discussion groups are effective means of thinking through & mastering the material. Makeup tests incur 7% penalty if unexcused & must be taken within a week or the grade goes to zero. The Final Exam is cumulative, i.e., covers the entire course! **N.B.: Cheaters will not fare well!**

2010 Weekly Schedule & Calendar

Aug. 24: Introduction; read Plato's *Apology, Crito, & Phaedo*—bring the book to class!

" 31: Cont'd

Sept. 7: Cont'd; Plato, *Symposium*.

" 14: Plato, *Republic*, Bks. I-VII; Voegelin, *NSP*, Intro (pp.1-26)

" 21: Cont'd

" 28: Plato, *Republic*, Bks. VIII-X

Oct. 5: >>>TEST I: counts as Mid-Term. Absence means 7% penalty on makeup, without ironclad excuse; must take by Oct. 12 or grade goes to zero. Counts as Mid-term. Start Aristotle on Oct. 7!

" 12: Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics*, Bks. I-V & X; Note "Glossary," pp. 303ff

" 19: Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics*, Bks. VI-IX; Voegelin, *NSP*, Chaps. 1-3 (pp. 27-106)

>>>Fall Holiday Oct. 21-25

" 26: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bks. I-IV

Nov. 2: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bks. V-VIII

>>> TEST II on 11/4 covers everything since Test I (final day to drop/resign is Nov. 5); begin Aquinas!

" 9: Aquinas, *Political Writings*, pp. 1-91;

" 16: Aquinas, pp. 92-195; Bonaventure, *Journey of the Mind to God*, pp. 1-39 & notes;

" 23: Cont'd: Fortescue, *In Praise of the Laws & Governance of England*, pp. 3-123; Voegelin, *NSP*, Chap. 4 (pp.

107-132); *Grad. Students: Research papers due!*

>>>Thanksgiving, Nov. 25

" 30: Corwin, *Higher Law Background*, Parts 1-3 (pp.1-54); Course review—Dec. 2 = last class meeting!

Dec. 10: FINAL EXAM. 3-5 PM – Exam cumulative but *concentrates on the material assigned* since Test II. Take-home EXAM *possible*, stay tuned!