

POLI 4081: POLITICAL THEORY FROM PLATO TO SIR JOHN FORTESCUE

Fall Semester 2011

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 9/13): 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!

2011 Weekly Schedule & Calendar

Aug. 23: Introduction; read Plato's *Apology, Crito, & Phaedo* --bring the book to class!

" 30: Cont'd

Sept. 6: Cont'd; Plato, *Symposium*; Voegelin, *NSP*, Intro (pp.1-26)

" 13: Plato, *Republic*, Bks. I-VII;

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

" 27: :>>>**TEST I on Sept. 29:** counts as Mid-Term. Absence means 7% penalty on makeup, without ironclad excuse; must take by Oct. 6 or grade goes to zero.

Oct. 4: Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics*, Bks.I-V & X; Note "Glossary," pp. 303ff

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

>>>**Fall Holiday Oct. 13-17**

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

" 25: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bks. V-VIII

: >>> **TEST II on 10/27** covers everything since Test I

Nov. 1: Aquinas, *Political Writings*, pp. 1-91; (final day to drop/resign is Nov. 4)

" 8: Aquinas, *Political Writings*, pp. 92-195; Bonaventura, *Journey of the Mind to God*, pp. 1-39 & notes

" 15: Cont'd & Fortescue, *In Praise of the Laws & Governance of England*, pp. 3-123; Voegelin, *NSP, Chap. 4* (pp. 107-132);

" 22: Cont'd;

>>>**Thanksgiving, Nov. 24**

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

Grad. Students: Research papers due!

Dec. 7: FINAL EXAM Wed., 10-12 Noon -- Exam cumulative but *concentrates on the material assigned* since Test II.