

ADM 2121
HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT I
Monday 9:40 to 12:30 pm. F17

Instructor: Dr. Ömür Birlir
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Office Hours: Wednesday 11 am to 1 pm.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to political thought. It involves a close reading of the texts which are decisive in the formation of Western consciousness. We will focus on ancient Greek philosophy and medieval Christianity, which form the foundations of the contemporary political theory. In reading these texts, we will address to the following fundamental questions of politics: “What is justice?” “What is the good life?” “What is the proper role and scope of the state?” “What are the virtues of citizenship?” “What is freedom?”

Course Requirements and Grading

1- Attendance and participation in class discussion: 20%

The class format is centered on lectures and on in-class discussions. Regular attendance and participation are required. Students must have completed the reading(s) listed for each session before the class.

2-Mid-term exam: 30% (December 1, 2008)

3-Final Exam: 50% (TBA)

Required Readings:

Sabine, G. H. *A History of Political Theory* (Holt)
Plato, *Apology*, (Hackett)
Plato, *Republic*, (Basic Books)
Aristotle, *Politics*, (Penguin Books)
Thomas Aquinas, *Political Writings*, (Cambridge)

Schedule of Classes:

September 22: What is political theory?

Introductory remarks

September 29: NO CLASS –Religious Holiday

October 6: Greek *Polis* and Socrates

Sabine, G. H. *A History of Political Theory* Chap.: 1-2.

October 13: Socrates and Justice

Plato *Apology*

October 20: Plato and Kallipolis I

Plato *Republic*, Book I

October 27: Plato and Kallipolis II

Plato *Republic*, Book II

November 3: Plato on Philosopher Kings

Plato *Republic*, Book V

November 10: Plato on Philosopher Kings II

Plato *Republic*, Book VII

November 17: Aristotle on the Nature of the State

Aristotle *Politics*, Book I pp: 53-75.

November 24: Aristotle on Ideal States and Plato

Aristotle *Politics*, Book II pp: 101-119.

December 1: Aristotle on Constitutions

Aristotle *Politics*, Book IV pp: 235- 270.

December 8: NO CLASS –Religious Holiday

December 15: Greek and Christians

Sabine, G. H. *A History of Political Theory* Chap.: 13

December 22: Thomas Aquinas on Justice and Politics

Aquinas *Political Writings*, Chap.: 3 pp: 76-95.

December 29: Aquinas and Natural Law

Aquinas *Political Writings*, Chap.: 3 pp: 114-126.

January 5: Concluding Remarks