

Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics

PLPT 3010  
Ancient and Medieval Political Theory  
Spring 2021

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Hours: Mon. 11 AM -1 PM  
and by appointment

Books have been ordered at the University Bookstore. Shorter readings are on the class Collab page. Students should purchase as many books as possible and have them available for class. Many of these works are in the public domain, although using the editions below is more convenient, since we will read many passages in class.

**This class will be conducted over zoom. I will attempt to do the lectures live, to provide opportunities for class interaction. Class sessions have been scheduled on collab. All sessions will be recorded and available through collab.**

Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates (Apology and Crito)* (Hackett, paperback)

Plato, *Republic* (Hackett, paperback)

Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I - VI (Penguin, paperback)

Epictetus, *Enchiridion* (Hackett, paper)

*Gospel According to St. Matthew* (any edition)

St. Augustine, *City of God* (Penguin, paperback): selections to be announced.

*The Social and Political Ideas of St. Augustine*, Chap. VI, "Church, State, Heresy" (Collab).

B. Tierney, *The Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300* (Toronto, paper): pp. 1-24, 45-80, 116-57, 188-89, 193-98, 206-10.

St. Thomas Aquinas, *On Law, Morality and Politics*, W. Baumbarth and R. Regan, eds. (Hackett, paper): pp. 10-75, 93-96, 97-130, 164-96, 203-10

Marsilius of Padua, *Defender of Peace*: Selection from *Defensor Pacis*; on reserve, on Collab only.

J. Dillenberger, ed., *Luther: Selections from His Writings* (Anchor, paper): pp. 3-13, 42-85, 363-92, 403-18, 434 (#4), 439-40 (#'s 9-10), 470 (#25)

"Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants," in J.M. Porter, ed., *Luther: Selected Political Writings* (on Collab)

"An Open Letter on the Harsh Book Against the Peasants," in J.M. Porter, ed., *Luther: Selected Political Writings* (on Collab)

"Dr. Martin Luther's Warning to his Dear German People," in J.M. Porter, ed., *Luther: Selected Political Writings* (on Collab)

recommended: *Vindiciae Contra Tyrannos*, in J. Franklin, ed., *Constitutionalism and Resistance in the Sixteenth Century* (Pegasus, paper): (Collab)

## Course Requirements

### 1. *Midterm and Final Examinations.*

Take Home Midterm, **Take Home Midterm, February 17 – 20 (11:59 PM)**

Final exam, live exam: **Thursday, May 13, 9 AM - 12 PM**

2. Paper, of approximately 10 pages, on topic of your own choosing, **paper due Sunday 5-9, posted on collab by 11:59 pm..** Please feel free to discuss paper topics with either instructor or teaching assistant. *Papers must be turned in on time; late papers will be penalized.* Some guidelines for papers are posted on the class Collab page.

3. Discussion Section. You must attend discussion section. Attendance will be taken. Frequent unexplained absences are grounds for grade penalties or dismissal from course. Class participation will be considered in your grade.

## Recommended readings

A few readings you may find valuable and interesting as background and some supplementary material are posted on the class Collab page.

**Secondary Sources :** Standard secondary sources on the history of political theory are on reserve in Clemons:

G. H. Sabine, *The History of Political Theory*.

C. H. McIlwain, *The Growth of Political Theory in the West*. (Ancient and Medieval)

J. Coleman, *A History of Political Thought: Vol. I, From Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*

J. Coleman, *A History of Political Thought: Vol. II, From the Middle Ages to the Reformation*

M. Forsyth and M. Keens-Soper, eds., *A Guide to the Political Classics: Plato to Rousseau*.

R.R. Palmer and J. Colton, *A History of the Modern World*.

There is an enormous literature on each of the books and authors on the list. Specific suggestions will be offered each week. For Plato, two useful sources are:

E. Barker, *Greek Political Theory: Plato and His Predecessors* (London 1918; rpt. 1947).

W.K.C. Guthrie, *A History of Greek Philosophy*, 6 vols. (Cambridge, 1962-81), Vols. 3, 4.