Political Science 501: 
Development of Ancient and Medieval Western Political Thought 
Fall 2012, MWF 11:00-11:50 
Educational Science 301

Instructor: Se-Hyoung Yi 
Office: 410 North Hall 
Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:20 pm and by appointment 
E-mail: syi2@wisc.edu

Course Description 
We live in the largest democratic republic in history. However, in the time of economic crisis, political polarization, cultural conflict, challenges of the globalization, and, most importantly, war, we are facing a set of fundamental political questions; is democracy still the best political regime? How can we justify democracy against other political regimes that seem to be more productive and successful? Can we imagine a different kind of democracy? After all, what is democracy? Born in a particular historical context, ancient Athens, democracy was neither a philosophical nor a theoretical monolith; rather, in the effort to respond to various political and theoretical challenges, the ancient Athenian democracy was already multidimensional. By engaging in the ancient texts that reflect diverse and oftentimes conflicting aspects of democracy, we will seek a better understanding of our democracy and a better imagination for our democratic future.

Course Materials 
The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. You are required to purchase the editions listed. Other selections are posted on learn@UW.

ISBN: 978-0465069347

ISBN: 978-0199538737

ISBN: 978-0872203945

ISBN: 978-0140448146

ISBN: 978-0140443332

ISBN: 978-0140444254

ISBN: 978-0521348355
Course Requirements, Assignments & Grading

My lectures will explore the assigned readings and other materials that will be presented in class. Thus to successfully pass this course, it is essential that you complete the assigned readings before class and come to class ready to think about them.

Regular attendance at lecture is mandatory. I will allow each student three absences throughout semester—no explanation is necessary. You are also required to visit my office before the midterm exam to talk about your academic expectation in the course. If you miss more than five times or fail to visit my office, however, your attendance score will be zero.

We will have five group debates on the designated dates. You will volunteer for one debate with any role throughout this semester. A debate is composed of roughly six or seven participants. (1 for a chairperson, 2-3 for team A, 2-3 for team B) A chairperson is responsible for proposing two debate topics. The topics should closely relate the readings of this course to contemporary political questions. A chairperson should e-mail the topics to all class members at least 5 days before the debate day. S/He will also run a debate. Both teams should make opposing or different arguments and defend their positions. Neither handouts nor visual effects are needed. The positions in the debates will not be considered as your permanent political stance. The discussion consists of 5 min. of introduction by a chairperson, 30-35 min. of free debate between two teams, and 10 min. of open questions from the floor. This activity will be graded by me (5%) and students in the floor (5%). The grading sheet will be offered.

There will be **two examinations**. The examinations will consist of short answer, text analysis, and essay items. The final essay questions will be accumulative. Course grades will be calculated approximately as follows, though I reserve the right to change assignments and weightings as I deem necessary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Debate</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and personal consultation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale:  
- A 93-100  
- AB 88-92.99  
- B 83-87.99  
- BC 78-82.99  
- C 72-77.99  
- D 65-71.99  
- F < 65

**OTHER POLICIES:**

*Special Need:* Students needing special accommodations to enable full participation in this course should contact the instructor as early as possible. For more information, contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center: [www.mcburney.wisc.edu](http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu) / (608) 263-2741

*Examination and Paper:* All exams must be taken on the dates listed on the following course schedule. I will allow make-up examinations only for the most compelling reasons (**not** to include, for example: travel plans, heavy work load in other courses, procrastination, laziness) Paper will be 1600-word in length and will ask you to analyze one or more authors. You may not draw on outside sources. I will hand out a prompt at least two weeks in advance of due
date. I will discuss grades on examinations and paper for 24 hours after they have been returned. If, after 24 hours’ reflection, you have a concern about a grade, please approach me with a brief written explanation of your concern. Any concerns about grading must be raised no later than two weeks after the assignment has been returned. I do not discuss grades via e-mail. Paper must be turned in by the start of class on the due date. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for every 24-hour period late (e.g. A to AB, AB to B, etc.). If you are 1 minute late, or 24 hours late, it costs you one letter grade.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any instances of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result a grade of “F” for the course. For more information, visit www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html (academic dishonesty)

**Class Manners:** Any disrespectful attitude towards the instructor and fellow students will never be condoned. The disrespectful manners include, but not limited to, drowsing, habitual tardiness, eating food (only covered beverages allowed), web-browsing, texting, and using vulgar words.

### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 5 W</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 7 F</td>
<td>Homer, <em>Iliad</em>, selections (learn@UW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 10 M</td>
<td>Euripides, <em>The Trojan Women</em> (learn@UW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 12 W</td>
<td>Aeschylus, <em>Agamemnon</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14 F</td>
<td>Herodotus, <em>Histories</em>, selections (learn@UW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 17 M</td>
<td>Herodotus, <em>Histories</em>, selections (learn@UW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 19 W</td>
<td>Aeschylus, <em>The Persians</em> (learn@UW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 21 F</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>Peloponnesian War</em>, 1.1-1.88, 1.139-1.145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 24 M</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>Peloponnesian War</em>, 2.1-2.65, 2.71-2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 26 W</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>Peloponnesian War</em>, 3.1-3.85, 5.84-5.116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 28 F</td>
<td>Thucydides, <em>Peloponnesian War</em>, 6.1-6.31, 7.60-7.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 1 M</td>
<td>Socrates, <em>Apology</em> (learn@UW)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oct 3 W  The Old Oligarch (learn@UW)
Oct 5 F  Exam Review
Oct 8 M  Midterm Exam
Oct 10 W  Group Debate #1
Oct 12 F  Group Debate #2
Oct 15 M  Aristophanes, Archanians
Oct 17 W  Aristophanes, Clouds
Oct 19 F  Aristophanes, Lysistrata
Oct 24 W  Plato, The Republic, Book 3
Oct 26 F  Plato, The Republic, Book 4
Oct 29 M  Plato, The Republic, Book 5-7
Oct 31 W  Plato, The Republic, Book 8
Nov 2 F  Plato, The Republic, Book 10
Nov 5 M  Paper Due / In Class Watch, No Textbook Answer: Communities Confront the Achievement Gap
Nov 7 W  Sophocles, Antigone
Nov 9 F  Sophocles, Oedipus the King
Nov 12 M  Group Debate #3
Nov 14 W  Group Debate #4
Nov 16 F  Aristotle, Politics, Book 1, 2(-p.51),
Nov 19 M  Aristotle, Politics, Book 3, 4
Nov 21 W – Nov 23 F  No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
Nov 26 M  Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 5, 6
Nov 28 W  Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers*
Nov 30 F  Aeschylus, *The Eumenides*
Dec 3 M  In Class Movie, *Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War*
Dec 5 W  In Class Movie, *Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War*
Dec 7 F  Cicero, *On Duties*, Book 1
Dec 10 M  Cicero, *On Duties*, Book 2, Book 3 (~p.118)
Dec 12 W  Group Debate #5
Dec 14 F  Exam Review

**FINAL EXAM: Dec 17 M 2:45-4:45 PM**