Instructor: R. Avramenko
Office: 201c North Hall
Office Hours: MTWR 11:30-12:30

Course Objective:
This course will introduce students to the central ideas and texts of Western Political Thought. We will read these texts with special attention given to the different visions of citizen virtue and how these visions relate to political life and political regimes. Students will be asked to read with two questions in mind: What did this author mean? And, What does the author mean to us?

Required Texts:

Students are required to purchase these translations. This is a text-based course and full participation requires that we navigate and explore the text together—that we be on the same page, so to speak. Students must bring the text to class.

Requirements:
First Paper (5 pp, due 9pm, June 8): 25%
Final Paper (10 pp, due June 21): 25%
Presentations: 25%
Participation: 25%

I. Itinerary:
May 26: Memorial Day: No Class
May 27: Discuss: Troy. Read: Friedrich Nietzsche, “Homer’s Contest”*
May 28: Plato *Republic*, Book I (327a-339b); Book II (368a-369b), Book IV (427e-445e), Book V (473c—480b),
May 29: Plato, *Republic*, Book VI (484a-487d, 504a-511e), Book VII (514a-521d), Book VIII (all).
June 2: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book I, 1-4, 7-9, 13; Book II, 1, 5, 6; Book III, 1, 2, 5, 6-12; Book IV, 1-9, Book V, 1-4)
June 3: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book VI, 1-8), Book VIII, 1-6
June 4: Epictetus, *Encheiridion* (all)

June 10: Machiavelli, *The Prince* (all)
June 11: Machiavelli, *Mandrágola*
June 12: John Locke, “Letter on Toleration”*

June 16: Mandeville, *Fable of the Bees* and “Essay on Charity and Charity-Schools”
June 17: Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, sections on Self-interest properly understood*
June 18: Tocqueville, *Memoir on Pauperism*

* PDF

June 21: **Final Paper due.**

**Course Rules:**
No laptops.

**Exams.** There are no exams.

**Paper.** The first paper is due by 9pm, via e-mail, on June 8th. Papers not received by this time are **LATE.** The second paper is due at noon, June 21, via e-mail. Papers not received by these times are **LATE.** Late papers will be penalized one half-letter grade per 24 hour period. Thus, if you are 1 minute late, or 24h, it costs you 5%. 24 hours and 1 minute late costs you 10%, and so on. The topic for these papers is open, but the paper will focus on the themes from the readings as discussed in the seminar.

**Participation:**
The course is a seminar. Effectiveness thus depends on two things: reading and participation. The grading schema is therefore designed to encourage both. The participation is based on attendance, preparedness, and participation in discussion. Carefully reading the assigned material before each class will go far in ensuring a good participation grade.

**Presentations:**
Students will be responsible for three presentations in groups (3 or 4 students per class). On the students’ assigned day for presentation they will serve as our resident hermeneuts. That is, on the day of the presentation, the students will become our experts on the text. The task is not to talk for the whole class, but rather to facilitate the discussion, to present what is perceived to be the major themes and statements in the text, and to be the experts guiding us in our interpretation and discussion.
McBurney Students: You must present your McBurney Visa in the first week of the class. Alternate arrangements will then be made, if necessary.

Grades. Upon return of the papers, neither I, nor the grader, will discuss your grade for at least 48 hours. If, after two days, you would like to discuss your grade, you must schedule an appointment. You must provide a written memo, in advance, detailing how and why you think your grade ought to be different than assigned. I will evaluate your memo, reread the paper, and determine whether the grade was accurate. If I deem that the grade was too high, it will be adjusted. There are no further appeals.

Honor Code. This course demands adherence to a certain code of honor. As such, I will construe all cheating in this class as a personal insult. Since it is no longer acceptable to get satisfaction in a duel, I will have to recur to a less-than-honorable recourse: I’ll tell on you and fail you. In short, plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. If you plagiarize or cheat, you will receive an F for the course and the case will be referred to the Dean’s Office.