

# **Historical and Political Thought**

**Fall 2022**

## **Historical and Political Thought**

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**Lectures: Wednesdays 11:35am-12:25pm, HQ L02**

### **Faculty**

Benjamin Barasch

Paul Freedman

Mordechai Levy-Eichel

Isaac Nakhimovsky

Timothy Robinson

Steven Smith

Norma Thompson

### **Books:**

The Hebrew Bible (Oxford Revised Standard Version, 2018)

Herodotus, *The History*, trans. David Grene (University of Chicago, 1987)

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. Rex Warner (Penguin, 1971)

Plato, *Republic*, trans. Tom Griffith (Cambridge UP)

Aristotle, *The Politics*, trans. Carnes Lord (Chicago)

Livy, *The Rise of Rome: Books 1–5*, trans. T.J. Luce (Oxford, 1998)

Tacitus, *Annals*, trans. Cynthia Damon (Penguin Classics, 2013)

Augustine, *City of God*, trans. Henry Bettenson (Penguin, 2004)

Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, trans. Richard D. Regan (Hackett, 2000)

### **Lectures and Reading Assignments**

Weekly lectures provide historical and intellectual context to help frame the week's readings and discussions. Attendance at both lectures and seminars is required.

Reading assignments for the first and second discussion section of each week are indicated by (i) and (ii). Many of the books we read are divided into parts called "books" which are in turn subdivided into chapters or numbered paragraphs. Unless page numbers are noted, reading assignments refer to book number (in Roman numerals) followed by chapter number (in Arabic numerals). For example, Book 2, Chapters 12 and 13 would be written as II.12-13.

#### **1. The Hebrew Bible: Exodus**

Lecture (Levy-Eichel): Wednesday, August 31

Discussions:

1. The Hebrew Bible, Genesis, chapters 37-50; Exodus, chapters 1-15
2. The Hebrew Bible, Exodus, chapters 16-40; Deuteronomy 29-32, 34

## **2. Herodotus, *History***

Lecture (Thompson): Wednesday, September 7

Discussions:

1. Herodotus, *History* I. 1-91; II. 35-41; III. 27-38; III. 61-89; VI. 94-120
2. Herodotus, *History* VII. 1-60; 99-105; VII. 129-63, 184-87; VII. 201-VIII.125; VIII. 140-144

### **3. Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War***

Lecture (Schillinger): Wednesday, Sept. 14

Discussions:

1. Thucydides, *Pel War* 1-1.23 (pp. 35-49); I. 66-1.97 (pp. 72-93); I. 125-1.146 (pp. 108-23); II. 1-2.65 (pp. 124-64)
2. Thucydides, *Pel War* 36-3.50 (pp. 212-23); III. 81-3.84 (pp.241-45); V. 84-116 (pp. 400-8); VI. 8-32 (pp. 414-29); VI. 60-61 (pp. 447-49); VI. 88-93 (pp. 465-70); VII. 72-87 (pp. 525-537)

#### **4. Aristophanes's *Clouds* and Plato's *Republic***

Lecture (Thompson): Wednesday, Sept. 21

Discussions:

1. Aristophanes, *Clouds*
2. Plato, *Republic* I-II

#### **5. Plato's *Republic***

Lecture (Smith): Wednesday, September 28

1. i) Plato, *Republic*, III-V
2. ii) Plato, *Republic* VI-VIII

#### **6. Aristotle, *Politics***

Lecture (Garsten): Wednesday, Oct. 5

Discussions:

1. Aristotle, *Politics* I, II:1-8
2. Aristotle, *Politics* III-IV

## 7. Aristotle's *Politics* and Livy's *Rise of Rome*

Lecture (Nakhimovsky): Wednesday, Oct. 12

Discussion:

1. Aristotle, *Politics*, V, VII
2. Livy, *The Rise of Rome*, (Author's) Preface; I.1-21, 46-60; II.1-13, 23-40, 54-61; III.44-58, 64-69

## 8. Autumn Break

## 9. Livy, *The Rise of Rome* and Polybius's *History*

Lecture: (Robinson) Wednesday, Oct. 26

Discussions:

1. Livy, *The Rise of Rome*, IV.1-7, 58-61; V (entire)
2. Polybius, *Histories* 1-6; III.1-6, 10-11, 30-32, 77-81; VI.1-18, 25-26, 36-39, 41-58; X.2; XI.19

## 10. Plutarch, *Parallel Lives Paul's Letter to the Romans*

Lecture (Barasch): Wednesday, Nov. 2

Discussions:

1. Plutarch, *Lives*, "Caesar"
2. Paul's *Letter to the Romans*

## 11. Tacitus, *Annals*

Lecture (Smith): Wednesday, Nov. 9

Discussions:

1. Tacitus, *Annals* I (entire); IV.32-35
2. Tacitus, *Annals* 1-28; XIV.1-21, 29-39; XV.36-39, 44, 47-64

## 12. Augustine, *City of God*

Lecture (Freedman): Wednesday, Nov. 16

Discussions:

1. Augustine, *City of God* 4, 14-21; II.4-7; IV.3-4; V.1-25; VIII.9-11; XI.1; XII.1-14, 21-23; XIII.21
2. Augustine, *City of God* 1-6, 11-28; XV.1-6; XVIII.49-53; XIX. 7, 10-28

### 13. Al-Farabi and Maimonides

Lecture (Franks): Wednesday, Nov. 30

Discussions:

1. Al-Farabi, *The Political Regime, The Attainment of Happiness* (selections, handout)
2. Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed* (selections, handout)

### 14. Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*

Lecture (Herdt): Wednesday, Dec 7

Discussions:

1. Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* Q 90-94 (pp. 1-43)
2. Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* Q 95-97 (pp. 44-69)

### Faculty

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Paul Freedman  
Mordechai Levy-Eichel  
Isaac Nakhimovsky  
Norma Thompson  
Steven Smith  
Glauco Schettini

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### **6. Aristotle, *Politics***

Lecture (XXXX?): Wednesday, Oct. 5

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- i) Aristotle, *Politics* I, II:1-8
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### **7. Aristotle's *Politics* and Livy's *Rise of Rome***

Lecture (Nackhimovsky): Wednesday, Oct. 19

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- ii) Livy, *The Rise of Rome*, (Author's) Preface; I.1–21, 46–60; II.1–13, 23–40, 54–61; III.44–58, 64–69

## **8. Autumn Break**

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Lecture: XXXX Wednesday, Oct. 26

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- ii) Polybius, *Histories* I.1–6; III.1–6, 10–11, 30–32, 77–81; VI.1–18, 25–26, 36–39, 41–58; X.2; XI.19

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- ii) Tacitus, *Annals* XIII.1–28; XIV.1–21, 29–39; XV.36–39, 44, 47–64

## **12. Augustine, *City of God***

Lecture (Freedman): Wednesday, Nov. 16

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- i) Augustine, *City of God* I.4, 14–21; II.4–7; IV.3–4; V.1–25; VIII.9-11; XI.1; XII.1–14, 21–23; XIII.21
- ii) Augustine, *City of God* XIV.1–6, 11–28; XV.1–6; XVIII.49–53; XIX. 7, 10-28

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