

Historical and Political Thought, Fall 2020

Instructors:

1. Steven Smith TTH 9-10:15
2. Paul Freedman TTH 1-2:15
3. Norma Thompson MW 2:30-3:45
4. Terence Renaud MW 1-2:15
5. Stuart Semmel MW 1-2:15
6. Isaac Nakhimovsky TTH 1-2:15
7. Daniel Schillinger MW 2:30-3:45

Lectures: Uploaded weekly, available Monday mornings

Books:

Herodotus, *The History*, trans. David Grene (University of Chicago, 1987)
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. Rex Warner (Penguin, 1971)
Plato, (See Philosophy Section)
Aristotle, *The Politics*, trans. Carnes Lord (Chicago, 2nd edition, 2013)
Livy, *The Rise of Rome: Books 1–5*, trans. T.J. Luce (Oxford, 1998)
Tacitus, *Annals*, trans. Michael Grant (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. Reading assignments for the first and second discussion section of each week are indicated by (i) and (ii), and, unless page numbers are noted, reading assignments refer to book number, followed by chapter number (for example, Book 2, Chapters 12 and 13 would be written as 2.12-13).

Week of Aug. 31 (week 1)

Reading and discussion: Herodotus, *History*

(i) Herodotus, *History*, 1.1-91; II.35-41; III.27-38

(ii) Herodotus, *History*, III.61-89; VI.94-120; VII.1-60; 7.1-60, 99-105

Lecture: Stuart Semmel (Herodotus)

Week of September 7 (week 2)

Reading and discussions: Herodotus, *History*

(i) Herodotus, *History*, VII.129-63, 184-87; VII.201-VIII.125; VIII.140-144

(ii) Thucydides, *Pel War*, 1.1-1.23 (pp. 35-49); 1.66-1.97 (pp. 72-93); 1.125-1.146 (pp. 108-23).

Lecture: Charles Hill (Herodotus & Thucydides)

Week of September 14 (week 3)

Reading and discussions: Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

(i) Thucydides, *Pel War*, 2.1-2.65 (pp. 124-64); 3.36-3.50 (pp. 212-23); 3.81-3.84 (pp. 241-45); 5.84-5.116 (pp. 400-8)

(ii) Thucydides, *Pel War*, 6.6-6.32 (pp. 412-29); 6.47-6.61 (pp. 439-49); 6.89-6.93 (pp. 466-70); 7.50-7.87 (pp. 510-537)

Lecture: Daniel Schillinger (Thucydides)

Week of September 21 (week 4)

Reading and discussions: Plato, *Republic*

(i) Plato, *Republic*, I-II

(ii) Plato, *Republic*, III-IV

Lecture: Terence Renaud (Plato)

Week of September 28 (week 5)

Reading and discussions: Plato, *Republic*

(i) Plato, *Republic*, V-VI

(ii) Plato, *Republic*, VII-VIII

Lecture: Steven Smith (Plato)

Week of October 5 (week 6)

Reading and discussions: Aristotle, *Politics*

(i) Aristotle, *Politics*, I; II, ch. 1-5

(ii) Aristotle, *Politics*, III

Lecture: Daniel Schillinger (Aristotle)

Week of October 12 (week 7)

Reading and discussions: Aristotle, *Politics*

(i) Aristotle, *Politics*, IV, ch. 1-13; V, ch. 1-5, 8-9

(ii) Aristotle, *Politics* VII, chap. 1-9, 13-15; VIII, ch. 1-2

Lecture: Isaac Nakhimovsky (Aristotle)

Week of October 19 (week 8):

(i) 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|

(ii) Livy, *The Rise of Rome*, IV.1–7, 58–61; V (entire)

Lecture: Isaac Nakhimovsky (Livy)

Week of October 26 (week 9)

Reading and discussion: Polybius and Plutarch

(i) Polybius, 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

(ii) Plutarch, *Life of Caesar*

Lecture: Stuart Semmel (Polybius/Plutarch)

Week of November 2 (week 10)

(i) Tacitus, *Annals*, I (entire); IV.32-35;

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

Lecture: Steven Smith (Tacitus)

Week of November 9 (week 11)

Reading and discussions: Augustine, *City of God*

(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

Lecture: Paul Freedman (Augustine)

Week of November 16 (week 12)

Reading and discussions: Alfarabi and Maimonides

(i) Alfarabi, *The Political Regime, The Attainment of Happiness* (selections, handout)

(ii) Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed* (selections, handout)

Lecture: Paul Franks

Week of November 30 (week 13)

Reading and discussion: Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*

(i) Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* Q 90–94 (pp. 1–43)

(ii) Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* Q 95–97 (pp. 44–69)

Lecture: Jennifer Herdt