Historical and Political Thought  
Fall 2021  

Faculty  
Stephanie Almeida Nevin  
Benjamin Barasch  
Paul Freedman  
Bryan Garsten  
Dan Schillinger  
Steven Smith  
Heather Wilford  
+1 more TBA  

Lectures: Mondays 11:35am-12:25pm  

Books:  
The Hebrew Bible (Oxford Revised Standard Version, 2018)  
Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, trans. Rex Warner (Penguin, 1971)  
Tacitus, Annals, trans. Michael Grant (Penguin Classics, 2013)  

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 (Garsten): Friday, Sept. 3 (note special time, due to Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 6th)  

Discussions:  

i) The Hebrew Bible, Genesis, chapters 37-50; Exodus, chapters 1-15
ii) The Hebrew Bible, Exodus, chapters 16-40

2. Herodotus, *History*

Lecture (Thompson): Monday, Sept. 13

Discussions:

i) Herodotus, *History* I.1-91; II.35-41; III.27-38; III.61-89; VI.94-120

ii) Herodotus, *History* VII.1-60; 7.1-60, 99-105; VII.129-63, 184-87; VII.201-VIII.125; VIII.140-144

3. Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

Lecture (Schillinger): Monday, Sept. 20

Discussions:

i) Thucydides, *Pel War* I.1-1.23 (pp. 35-49); I.66-1.97 (pp. 72-93); I.125-1.146 (pp. 108-23).

ii) Thucydides, *Pel War* II.1-2.65 (pp. 124-64); III.36-3.50 (pp. 212-23); III.81-3.84 (pp.241-45); V.84-5.116 (pp. 400-8)

iii) Thucydides, *Pel War* VI.6-6.32 (pp. 412-29); VI.47-6.61 (pp. 439-49); VI.89-6.93 (pp. 466-70); VII.50-7.87 (pp. 510-537)

4. Plato, *Republic*

Lecture (Wilford): Monday, Sept. 27
Lecture (Smith): Monday, Oct. 4

Discussions:

i) Plato, *Republic* I-II

ii) Plato, *Republic* III-IV

iii) Plato, *Republic* V-VI

iv) Plato, *Republic* VII-VIII

5. Aristotle, *Politics*

Lecture (Schillinger): Monday, Oct. 11

Discussions:
6. Polybius, *The Histories*

Lecture (TBA): Monday, Oct. 18

Discussion:

i) 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

7. Livy, *The Rise of Rome*

Lecture (Garsten): Monday, Oct. 25

Discussions:


8. Plutarch, *Parallel Lives of the Noble Greeks and Romans*

Lecture (Almeida Nevin): Monday, Nov. 1

Discussions:


9. Tacitus, *Annals*

Lecture (Smith): Monday, Nov. 8

Discussions:

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

10. Augustine, *City of God*
Lecture (Freedman): Monday, Nov. 15

Discussions:

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

11. Al-Farabi and Maimonides

Lecture (Franks): Monday, Nov. 29

Discussions:

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

12. Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*

Lecture (Herdt): Monday, Dec. 6

Discussions:

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