

Directed Studies:
Historical and Political Thought

Fall 2024

Discussion Sections

- Steven Smith: MW 9-10:15
- Maria Doerfler: MW 1-2:15
- Stuart Semmel: TTh 1-2:15
- Isaac Nakhimovsky: TTh 1-2:15
- Heather Wilford: MW 2:30-3:45
- Dan Schillinger: TTh 2:30-3:45
- Paul Freedman: TTh 11:35-12:50
- Tim Kreiner: TTh 11:35-12:50

Texts for Purchase

- *The New Oxford Annotated Bible*, New Revised Standard Version, 5th ed. (Oxford, 2018)
- Herodotus, *The History*, trans. David Grene (Chicago, 1987)
- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. Rex Warner (Penguin, 1971)
- Plato, *Republic*, trans. Tom Griffith (Cambridge, 2000)
- Aristotle, *The Politics*, trans. Carnes Lord, 2nd ed. (Chicago, 2013)
- Livy, *The Rise of Rome: Books 1–5*, trans. T.J. Luce (Oxford, 1998)
- Tacitus, *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, trans. Michael Grant (Penguin, 1996)
- Augustine, *City of God*, trans. Henry Bettenson (Penguin, 2004)
- Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, trans. Richard D. Regan (Hackett, 2000)

Lectures and Reading Assignments

Lectures are on Mondays, 11:35-12:25 in HQ L02 unless otherwise noted below. The purpose of the weekly lectures is to introduce and help frame the week's readings and discussions. Reading assignments for the first and second discussion section of each week are indicated by (a) and (b) below. For the most part, they specify book and section or chapter numbers rather than page numbers: for example, II.35-41 refers to Book 2, Chapters 35 through 41.

Please note that classes begin on Wednesday, August 28; Monday classes meet on Friday, August 30; and there are no meetings on Monday, September 2. As a result, Monday/Wednesday sections will meet twice in Week 1 and once in Week 2, as presented below, but Tuesday/Thursday sections will meet once in Week 1 and twice in Week 2.

1. Week of August 28

- (a) *Genesis* 37-50; *Exodus* 1-15
- (b) *Exodus* 16-40; *Deuteronomy* 29-32, 34

Lecture: Bryan Garsten on *The Hebrew Bible* (**Friday, August 30, 11:35-12:25**)

2. Week of September 2

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

Lecture: Stuart Semmel on Herodotus (**Thursday, September 5, 4:00-4:50**)

3. Week of September 9

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

(b) Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, I.1-23, 66-97, 125-146; II.1-65

Lecture: Dan Schillinger on Thucydides

4. Week of September 16

(a) Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, III.36-50, 81-84; V.84-116

(b) Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, VI.6-32, 47-61, 88-93; VII.50-87

Lecture: Heather Wilford on Plato

5. Week of September 23

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

(b) Plato, *Republic*, III-V

Lecture: Steven Smith on Plato

6. Week of September 30

(a) Plato, *Republic*, VI-VIII

(b) Aristotle, *Politics*, I (entire), II.1-8

Lecture: Dan Schillinger on Aristotle

7. Week of October 7

(a) Aristotle, *Politics*, III (entire), IV.1-3

(b) Aristotle, *Politics*, IV.4-12; V.1-5; VII.1-9, 13-15

Lecture: Isaac Nakhimovsky on Aristotle and Polybius

8. Week of October 14

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

(No Lecture: October Break)

9. Week of October 23

- (a) Livy, *Rise of Rome*, Author's Preface, I.1-21, 46-60; II.1-13, 23-33, 54-61
(b) Livy, *Rise of Rome*, IV.1-7, 58-61; V (entire)

Lecture: Isaac Nakhimovsky on Livy

10. Week of October 28

- (a) Plutarch, *Lives*, "Caesar" (pdf)
(b) Plutarch, *Lives*, "Brutus" (pdf)

Lecture: Tim Kreiner on Plutarch

11. Week of November 2

- (a) Tacitus, *Annals*, pp. 31-77, 172-75
(b) Tacitus, *Annals*, pp. 284-97, 312-24, 327-32, 360-77

Lecture: Steven Smith on Tacitus

12. Week of November 9

- (a) Augustine, *City of God*, Preface to Book I, I.1-4, 14-21; IV.3-4; V.1-4, 8, 12-19, 24-25; VIII.5-11; XI.1; XII.1-14
(b) Augustine, *City of God*, XIV.1-6, 11-21, 28; XV.1, 4, 6; XVIII.4, 49-53; XIX.7, 10-21, 24-28

Lecture: Maria Doerfler on Augustine

13. Week of November 16

- (a) Alfarabi, *The Political Regime and The Attainment of Happiness*, selections (pdf)
(b) Maimonides, *The Guide of the Perplexed*, selections (pdf)

Lecture: Paul Freedman on Alfarabi and Maimonides

(Thanksgiving Break)

14. Week of December 2

(a) Aquinas, *Treatise*, Q90-94

(b) Aquinas, *Treatise*, Q95-97

Lecture: Jennifer Herdt on Aquinas