Course Objectives
We are, all of us, women and men, political beings. We accept, reject, despise or honor the arrangements which structure our social and political universe. Even those who ignore the political world are paradoxically political—to ignore is to accept. Throughout Western history theorists have discussed the political world in terms of certain themes that have seemed to them central in informing their ideals and visions about politics. It is around these themes that this survey of western political philosophy is structured. The course will explore these themes historically and in terms of their relevance for American political values today.

Course Mechanics
There will be 26 lectures. The syllabus suggests a dated linkage of those lectures with the reading. Students are, or course, free to pace the reading and lectures in any manner that suits their own schedules. There will be two prelim exams on the two dates indicated, and a final exam. In addition, students are expected to consistently and actively participate in class by addressing discussion questions posted on Blackboard. The course grade will be based on 20% for each prelim, 50% for the final, and 10% for participation.

Books
There are three texts for the course.
3. GOVT 1615 Course Packet ([Course Packet](#))

Syllabus
I. Introduction. (Lecture 1) (27 June)

II. Wisdom (Lecture 2, 3, 4) (28-30 June)

The Greek Polis and Modern Political Institutions
The Role of Politics and Public Life in Antiquity
Plato's Vision: A Wise Elite

Reading:
Plato, *Republic* (Readings, 57-70; 99-101; 115-124; 140-154; 170-182; 190-249; 302-304) (paragraphs 368a-376c; 401a-403a; 412c-421c; 432d-442d; 457c-466d; 471d-521b; 562a-563d)

III. Citizenship (Lecture 5, 6) (1-2 July)

Political Participation and Freedom
Of "Diners" and "Cooks"
Aristotle's Reply to Plato

Reading: Aristotle, The Politics (Readings 107-124); Readings in Course Packet (8-19)

IV. Love and Obedience (Lectures 7, 8, 9) (3-6 July)

The Politics of the Old Testament
Christ and Love
Paul and Obedience
St. Augustine and the Misery of this World
St. Thomas Aquinas: Of God's Higher Justice and Law

Reading:
New Testament, Readings in Course Packet (20-30)
St. Augustine, City of God (Readings, 129, 133-143); Readings in Course Packet (30-36)
St. Thomas Aquinas, Politics and Law (Readings, 144-152); Readings in Course Packet (36-54)

V. Power (Lecture 10, 11) (7-8 July)

Machiavellianism: The Case Against Machiavelli
Ends and Means
Machiavelli Vindicated?

Reading: Machiavelli, The Prince (Readings, 167-187); The Discourses on Livy (Readings, 188-193); Readings in Course Packet (54-65)

PRELIM EXAM 1: 11 July

VI. Freedom. (Lecture 12, 13, 14) (13-15 July)

The Pre-Capitalist World
The New Age of Bourgeois Europe
Hobbes and the Politics of Freedom

Reading: Hobbes, Leviathan (Readings, 205-242)

VII. Rights (Lecture 15, 16) (16-17 July)

Locke and Rights
Property and Consent
The Negative Liberal State

Reading: Locke, Second Treatise on Government (Readings, 243-279); Readings in Course Packet (66-71)

VIII. Democracy (Lecture 17, 18, 19) (18-20 July)

The Nature of Democracy
Rousseau on Equality
Rousseau and the General will
Reading: Rousseau, *Discourse on ...Inequality* (Readings, 293-314); *Social Contract* (Readings, 280-292); Readings in Course Packet (72-87)

**PRELIM EXAM II: 23 July**

IX. Gender (Lecture 20, 21) (24-25 July)

The Enlightenment and de Gouges
Wollstonecraft's Answer to Rousseau

Reading: de Gouges, *Declaration of the Rights of Women as Citizens* (Readings, 356-361)
Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Readings, 362-371); Readings in Course Packet (88-93)

X. Tradition (Lecture 22) (27 July)

Edmund Burke: The Conservative Prophet

Reading: Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Readings, 349-355); Readings in Course Packet (94-99)

XI. Individuality (Lecture 23) (28 July)

Nineteenth Century Liberalism and Free Speech

Reading: Mill, *On Liberty* (Readings, 375-389); Readings in Course Packet (100)

XII. Class (Lecture 24, 25) (29-31 July)

Marx on History and Economics
Marxist Humanism: Alienation and Freedom
Marx on the State and Revolution

Reading: Marx, *Estranged Labor* (Readings, 438-447); *The Communist Manifesto* (Readings, 448-464)

XIII. Race (Lecture 26) (3 August)

Reading:
Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth* (Readings, 615-622)
Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter From Birmingham Jail* (Readings, 623-636)
Malcolm X, *The Ballot or the Bullet* (Readings, 636-642)

**FINAL EXAM, 6 August**