Classical Political Philosophy (4331)
Fall, 2020

Department of Political Science and Philosophy

John Glassford, Professor of Philosophy

Office: Rassman 217
Email: john.glassford@angelo.edu
Office Phone: 325-942-2262
Office Hours: Blackboard Collaborate (by appointment)

Room and Class Times: ‘Officially’ RASS 110, but in reality we will meet in conference room RASS 263, Thursday, 2:00-4:50


Additional supplemental texts will be made available on the Classical Political Philosophy website on Blackboard.

Description
The political thought of classical Greece and Rome continues to provide the so-called ‘West’ with a vision of its own self-image. But what is this image an image of? What kind of place is the ‘West’ supposed to be? In this semester long course students will engage in a close reading of the founding texts of the Western political tradition; the texts of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Seneca, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli and others. The issues that concerned the Greeks and Romans are issues which still concern political thought today; what is tyranny? What is democracy? What is justice? Who should be a citizen? What does it mean to live a good life? Who should have power, and how much power should they have? What does it mean to be free? A close reading of the texts is suggestive of many problems that we see today regarding rights, duties, and obligations, and the problems posed by populism: Trump, Orban, Erdogan, Bolsanaro and others?

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class At Angelo State University

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up
any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

**The Class**
This class is a seminar-style class, i.e. close readings of the texts, then discussion on the understanding and meaning of these texts, and so class participation is vital. I will spend a few minutes at the beginning of the class introducing the philosophers and the themes of the class and then I will open the class up for discussion. It is obviously very important that all students do their reading assignments BEFORE coming to class and are prepared to contribute.

**Collaborate Attendance Policy & Etiquette**
If circumstances change and we have to move to full online format because of covid-19 the following should be noted; Once into Blackboard collaborate please have video ON. You will find that the moderator (me) has switched off all mics, this is to enable the session to flow without interruption, without background noise, and save bandwidth. If you have any questions during the session you can type them into the text box and I will answer all questions towards the end of the session.

**Class Prohibitions**
No Sleeping
No Phones
No earbuds
No dipping
No laptops (without an accommodation)
No hot food
No passing messages
Don’t sign in unless you plan to stay

**Class Attendance Policy**
Class attendance at ASU is mandatory and a class roll will be taken twice. If you miss three consecutive classes the ASU registrar will be informed. If you miss more than five classes during the semester you may receive a fail for the course overall (depending on the circumstances). The only legitimate reasons for missing classes or leaving classes early are sickness or documented medical appointments, or a domestic emergency (i.e. ‘car trouble’ is not a domestic emergency). Exceptions to this will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Class Preparation**
Bring your textbook to class
Bring a notebook and pencil to class
Do your reading assignment before class
Be prepared to answer questions
If it helps, record the class

**Assessment - Four Papers**
There will be FOUR papers, worth 25% each. Papers should be between 800-1000 words. Paper questions will be posted on Blackboard in advance and should be submitted on Blackboard. Students must answer the specific question asked and should use the texts for support. Please do not use any material or content from the internet.

**Grading Scale**
A 90% and over Outstanding
B 80% Very good
C 70% Satisfactory
D 60% Minimum required
F less than 60%

Students who receive an F on any assignment should come to see me during my office hours to discuss what might have gone wrong and what can be done to improve the situation.

Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address http://www.angelo.edu/student/) and click on the Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Religious Observances
Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

Disabilities
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities. Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Title IX Statement
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX
Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

ASU Mission Statement
Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. In a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integration of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service, and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.

The Course Calendar
(Note that this is a rough estimate of what we will cover and that this plan depends entirely upon the reading and comprehension of the class. Sometimes the class moves faster or slower than expected. Also I reserve the right to change the readings from time to time).

**Week 1**
**Class 1 Topic:** Neo-Conservatism and Power
**Reading assignments:**
**Textbook:** Plato’s *Republic*, pp. 172-181 (338c-354c)
**Notes:** Class 1, The Stuff we have Skipped (the Death of Socrates).

**Week 2**
**Class 2 Topic:** The Mind and the City
**Reading Assignments:**
**Textbook:** Plato’s *Republic*, pp. 222-246 (434a-480)
**Notes:** Class 2, (Education of the Guardians)

**Week 3**
**Class 3 Topic:** Philosophy and the Great Beast
**Reading Assignments:**
**Textbook:** Plato’s *Republic*, pp. 246-262 (484-511), and Simone Weil, “The Great Beast,” from *Gravity and Grace*, (Blackboard, PDF, scholarship tab).
**Notes:** Class 3, A.N. Whitehead, “footnotes to Plato”

**First paper Due:** Friday, September 4 (Noon)

**Week 4**
**Class 4 Topic:** The Slide into Tyranny
**Reading Assignments:**
**Textbook:** Plato’s *Republic*, pp. 276-303 (543-592)
**Notes:** Class 4 The Rise of the “People’s Champion”

**Week 5**
**Class 5 Topic:** Aristotle’s *Politics*
**Reading Assignments:**
**Textbook:** Aristotle, *Politics*, pp. 377-384 (1252a-1261a5)
**Notes:** Class 5 Are You a Beast or a God?

**Week 6**
**Class 6 Topic:** Property and Citizenship
**Reading Assignments:**
**Textbook:** Aristotle, *Politics*, pp. 387-398 (1263a-1280a)
**Notes:** Class 6 It’s Only Natural
Week 7
Class 7 Topic: The Common Good
Reading Assignments:
Textbook: Aristotle, Politics, pp. 401-424 (1282b15-1325a)
Notes: (none)

Second Paper Due: Friday, October 9 (Noon)

Week 8
Class 8 Topic: Reason and the Republic
Reading Assignments:
Notes: Class 8, Who is in charge here?

Week 9
Class 9 Topic: Running with Cicero
Reading Assignments:
Textbook: Augustine, City of God, pp. 463-504, The Letters (Blackboard, PDFs)
Notes: Class 9 More Liberal than Jerry Falwell Jr

Third Paper Due: Friday, October 23 (Noon)

Week 10
Class 9 Topic: Cesare Borgia was almost perfect
Reading Assignments:
Notes: Class 10, Who was the real Machiavelli?

Week 11
Class 9 Topic: A good Italian
Reading Assignments:
Textbook: Machiavelli, The Prince, pp. 571-591
Notes: Throw the barbarians into the sea

Week 12
Class Topic: In the last resort, trust the people
Reading Assignments:
Textbook: Machiavelli, The Discourses, pps. 591-622
Notes: (none)
Week 13
REVIEW: Power and Liberty of the ‘Western’ sort.

Week 14
Finals

**Final Paper:** Friday, November 20, (Noon)