

Political Science 344: Western Political Thought II: Medieval Political Thought
Spring 2007
AND 101: M, W (4:00 PM – 5:15 PM)

Dr. Justin D. Lyons

Office: Andrews 117

Office Hours: MWF 9-9:50 AM

T, TH 10:50 AM-12:00 PM (and by appointment)

Phone: 419-289-5709

Email: jlyons1@ashland.edu



Course Description:

Medieval political thought sought to explore the questions of the proper relationship between reason and revelation and of which authority should be the guide in politics. This course will examine the ways in which Christian, Jewish, and Muslim thinkers, each with their own revelatory traditions, dealt with these questions and the results for their thought on political matters.

Required Texts:

- **Fides et Ratio: On the Relationship Between Faith and Reason*, Pope John Paul II, Daughters of St. Paul, 1998.
- **Augustine: Political Writings* (trans. Tkacz and Kries), Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1994.
- **Aquinas: On Law, Morality, and Politics* (trans. Regan), Hackett Publishing Company, 2002.
- **Medieval Political Philosophy: A Sourcebook*, ed. Ralph Lerner and Mushin Mahdi, Cornell University Press, 1993. (MPP)

Assignments:

- * In-Class Contribution 10%
- * Two Take-Home Exams 60%
- * Final Exam 30%

Attendance and Participation: Students will be penalized for frequent and unexcused absences. Participation in class discussion is necessary and should be well-grounded in assigned readings.

Reading: It is imperative that you read and reflect on the assigned material before the class in which it is to be discussed. I reserve the right to introduce quizzes if students do not keep up with the reading assignments.

Academic Honesty:

University policy concerning academic honesty will be rigorously enforced in this course. See the “Policy Statements” portion of the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism—“the intentional or unintentional presentation of someone else's words, ideas or data as one's own work. In the event the faculty member deems the plagiarism is unintentional, he/she shall typically require the student to rewrite the assignment. In the event the faculty member believes the plagiarism is willful, the sanctions in this document will apply.”
2. Fabrication—“intentional falsification or invention of research, data, citations, or other information.”
3. Cheating—“an act of deception in which a student represents mastery of information that he/she has not mastered.”

An instance of academic dishonesty will result in an F on the assignment and possible dismissal/failure from the course. For further guidelines regarding plagiarism, see the link “A Guide to Avoiding the Evils of Plagiarism” on my website. Ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

Course Schedule (Modifications will be made if necessary)**Week 1: January 15-19**

M No Class MLK Day

W Introduction

Week 2: January 22-26

M Pope John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, pp.1-65

W Pope John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*, pp. 66-131

Week 3: January 29-February 2

M Augustine, pp. 1-47

W Augustine, pp. 78-114

Week 4: February 5-9

M Augustine, pp. 115-163

- W Augustine, pp.164-201
- Week 5: February 12-16**
 M Augustine, vii-xxix; *The Compatibility of Christianity and Politics*, pp. 202-212.
 W MPP, Introduction, pp. 1-20.
- Week 6: February 19-23**
 M Alfarabi, *The Enumeration of the Sciences, The Political Regime*, MPP pp.22-57
 W Alfarabi, *The Political Regime* (continued), *Plato's Laws*, MPP, pp. 83-94
First Take-Home Exam Due
- Week 7: February 26-March 2**
 M Averroes, *The Decisive Treatise, Determining What the Connection is Between Religion and Philosophy* MPP, pp. 163-185
 W Ibn Khaldun, *An Introduction to History*, selections
- Week 8: March 5-9**
 M Maimonides, *Logic, Guide of the Perplexed* MPP, pp.188-225
 W Maimonides, *Guide of the Perplexed* (continued)
- Week 9: March 12-16**
Spring Break—No Class
- Week 10: March 19-23**
 M Albo, *Book of Roots*; Abravanel, *Commentary on the Bible* MPP, pp. 237-270
 W Aquinas, *Commentary on the Ethics* MPP, pp. 272-296
- Week 11: March 26-30**
 M Aquinas, On Law, pp. 10-40
 W Aquinas, On Law, pp.40-69 **Second Take-Home Exam Due**
- Week 12: April 2-6**
 M Aquinas, On Law, pp. 69-96
 W Aquinas, On Justice, pp. 97-129
- Week 13: April 9-13**
 M Aquinas, On Property, pp. 130-163; Augustine, *Property* pp. 248-249
 W Aquinas, On War and Killing, Obedience and Rebellion, pp. 164-189;
 Augustine, *Law and Self-Defense, War*, pp. 213-229
- Week 14: April 16-20**
 M Aquinas, On Tolerance and Church-State Relations, pp. 190-196; Augustine, *The Use of Persecution*, pp. 230-247
 W Aquinas, On Practical Wisdom and Statecraft, pp. 197-210; Augustine, *Lying* pp. 254-256
- Week 15: April 23-27**
 M Dante, *On Monarchy* MPP, pp. 418-438
 W Giles of Rome, *On Ecclesiastical Power*; John of Paris, *On Kingly and Royal Power* MPP, pp. 391-417
- Week 16: April 30-May 4**
 M Marsilius of Padua, *The Defender of the Peace*, MPP, pp. 439-491
 W Marsilius of Padua, *The Defender of the Peace* (continued)
- Final Exam**

