

STUDY IN GREECE

Summer School

“Ancient Cities and Empires and the Modern World”

Venue: Athens, Greece

Content: The main objective of the summer course is to familiarize the students with the basic aspects of ancient Greek and Roman political thought, combining their historical development with modern perspectives and issues. The course is focused on the emergence and historical evolution of democracy as well as representative governments. It will also trace the emergence of empires, with multiethnic and multicultural character prefiguring the modern transnational states. Special emphasis will be given to the intercultural character of political thought in the Eurasian and Mediterranean worlds. We will also discuss new themes, such as the role of women political actors as well as the influence of Asian political philosophy on modern and contemporary Western political thought. Upon completing this course, the students would be able to critically reflect on the cross-cultural dimensions of ancient political thought and how it bears upon contemporary challenges.

Course duration: two weeks (3hours per day): 10:30-12:00, lunch break, 13:00– 14:30

Course structure:

Week #1

1. Pericles and the heyday of Athenian democracy (D. Vasilakis)
2. Plato's and Aristotle's critique of democracy (D. Vasilakis)
3. Roman political thought: the republic and the empire (G. Steiris)
4. Cosmopolitanism in Late Antiquity and contemporary approaches to globalization (G. Steiris)
5. The Byzantine world and its cultural surroundings (Asia and North Africa) (M. Theodosiadis)

Week #2

6. The reception of ancient and Byzantine political thought in the Italian Renaissance (Florence and Venice) (V. Syros)
7. Ancient political thought and the emergence of the modern Western state (A. Platias)
8. The reception of ancient political thought in the English and American political traditions (M. Theodosiadis)
9. The rise and fall of empires and modern multiethnic/multicultural political entities (V. Syros)
10. Ancient political thought and the cross-cultural interpretation of leadership in the 21st century (S. Tegos)

On-site activities

1. Pnyx
2. Platonic Academy
3. Aristotle's Lyceum
4. Ancient Agora
5. Temple of Poseidon – Sounion
6. Church of Agia Fotini
7. Weekend trip: Delphi/ Mycenae – Epidaurus/ Olympia

Instructors

1. Georgios Steiris, Associate Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (gsteiris@philosophy.uoa.gr)
<http://en.philosophy.uoa.gr/c-v/georgios-steiris.html>
2. Vasileios Syros, University of Basel / Director of the Early Modern Greek Culture Program, The Medici Archive Project (Florence, Italy) (syros@medici.org)
<https://www.medici.org/early-modern-greek-culture/>
3. Michael Theodosiadis, Dr of Political Science, (Goldsmiths - University of London) (M.Theodosiadis@gold.ac.uk)
<https://goldsmiths.academia.edu/MichailTheodosiadis>
4. Athanasios Platias, Professor of Strategy, University of Piraeus (platias@unipi.gr)
<https://www.des.unipi.gr/en/faculty/platias>
5. Spiros Tegos, Assistant Professor of Modern Philosophy, University of Crete (stegos@fks.uoc.gr), <http://www.fks.uoc.gr/~pw/en/staff/tegos/>
6. Dimitris Vasilakis, Lecturer, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, (dimvasilakis@philosophy.uoa.gr),
<https://en.philosophy.uoa.gr/department/personnel/teaching-assistants.html>

Week #1

1. Pericles and the heyday of Athenian democracy:
Examining the birth of Athenian democracy, its origins, evolution, and institutions.
Pericles' ideal democracy and leadership style.

Readings:

- Thucydides, *Pericles' Funeral Oration*
<https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/pericles-funeralspeech.asp>

Bibliography:

- Balot, R.K., "The Virtue Politics of Democratic Athens", in St. Salkever (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Greek Political Thought*, CUP, Cambridge, 2009, pp.271-300.
- Raaflaub, K.A., "Democracy", in K.H. Kinzl (ed.), *A Companion to the Classical Greek World*, Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA-Oxford-Carlton, Victoria, 2006, pp.387-415.
- Ritchie, Sh., "Political myth and action in Pericles' Funeral Oration", *Innovations: A Journal of Politics* 8 (2008-2009), 73-85.

2. Plato's and Aristotle's critique of democracy:

Plato's critique on existing polities, including democracy, and his predilection for philosophers' government. Aristotle's classification of constitutions and his views on democracy.

Readings:

- Plato, *Republic*, 543a – 5632a.
http://faculty.smcm.edu/jwschroeder/Web/ETHR1002/Global_Justice_Readings_files/3.PlatoRepublic.pdf
- Aristotle, *Politics*, 1288 – 1301. https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/files/Politics_1.pdf

Bibliography:

- Balot, *Ryan K, Greek political thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2006, 86-137, 177-265.
- Brown, Eric, "Plato's Ethics and Politics in The Republic", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2017/entries/plato-ethics-politics>
- Coleman, Janet, *A history of political thought. Vol. 1, From ancient Greece to early Christianity*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000, 68-227.
- Liddel, Peter, "Democracy Ancient and Modern", in Balot, Ryan K., ed. *A companion to Greek and Roman political thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell 2009, 131-148.
- Miller, Fred, "Aristotle's Political Theory", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-politics/#ConCit>

3. Roman political thought: the republic and the empire:

The birth of the Roman *respublica*: structure and institutions. The transition to a large-scale state and the emergence of emperorship.

Readings:

- Polybius, *Histories*, VI. 11-18, 43-58.

Bibliography:

- Coleman, Janet, *A history of political thought. Vol. 1, From ancient Greece to early Christianity*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000, 229-291.
- Hammer, Dean (eds), *Roman Political Thought, From Cicero to Augustine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014).
- Hammer, Dean, "Roman Political Thought", *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought, First Edition*. Edited by Michael T. Gibbons. John Wiley & Sons, 2015.
- Hurllet, Frédéric. "Justice, Res Publica and Empire: Subsidiarity and Hierarchy in the Roman Empire." In *The Impact of Justice on the Roman Empire: Proceedings of the Thirteenth Workshop of the International Network Impact of Empire (Gent, June 21-24, 2017)*, edited by Hekster Olivier and Verboven Koenraad, 122-37. LEIDEN; BOSTON: Brill, 2019. Accessed June 27, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1163/j.ctvrxk2q4.10>.
- Tatum, Jeffrey, "Roman Democracy?", Balot, Ryan K., ed. *A companion to Greek and Roman political thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell 2009, 214-227.

4. Cosmopolitanism in Late Antiquity and contemporary approaches to globalization: Ancient cosmopolitanism and contemporary perceptions of globalization.

Readings:

- Cicero, *De officiis*, 1.50 – 1.51, 3.27. <https://ryanfb.github.io/loebolus-data/LO30.pdf>

Bibliography:

- Held, David, "Cosmopolitanism: globalisation tamed?", *Review of International Studies* 29 (2003), 465–480.
- Kleingeld, Pauline and Eric Brown, "Cosmopolitanism", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2019 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2019/entries/cosmopolitanism/>
- Konstan, David, "Cosmopolitan Traditions", in Balot, Ryan K., ed. *A companion to Greek and Roman political thought*. Malden, MA: Blackwell 2009, 471-484.
- Long, A. A. "The Concept of the Cosmopolitan in Greek & Roman Thought." *Daedalus* 137, no. 3 (2008): 50-58. Accessed June 27, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40543797>.
- Pangle, Thomas, "Roman Cosmopolitanism: The Stoics and Cicero", in Trepanier, Lee, and Khalil M. Habib, eds. *Cosmopolitanism in the Age of Globalization: Citizens without States*. Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky, 2011, 40-69.
- Sluga, Glenda, and Julia Horne. "Cosmopolitanism: Its Past and Practices." *Journal of World History* 21, no. 3 (2010): 369-73. Accessed June 27, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40985021>.

5. The Byzantine world and its cultural surroundings (Asia and North Africa): The humanistic/anthropocentric byzantine civilization; the role of religion in politics; the interaction with Asian and Mediterranean cultures.

Readings:

Bibliography:

Week #2

6. The reception of ancient and Byzantine political thought in the Italian Renaissance (Florence and Venice):
The reinterpretation of ancient and Byzantine political thought by Italian humanists. The Venetian mixed constitution and Florentine republicanism. The emergence of humanistic politics.

Readings:

Bibliography:

- Pocock, John G. A., *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1975).

- Bouwsma, William J., *Venice and the Defense of Republican Liberty: Renaissance Values in the Age of the Counter Reformation* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 1968).
7. Ancient political thought and the emergence of the modern Western state:
From Machiavelli and Hobbes to Locke and Weber: the shaping of modern political state and the question of participation.

Readings:

Bibliography:

8. The reception of ancient political thought in the English and American political traditions:
The English and American revolutions according to Th. Payne, Th. Jefferson, A. de Tocqueville. Ancient republican and liberal influences in the abolitionist movements.

Readings:

Bibliography:

9. The rise and fall of empires and modern multiethnic/multicultural institutions and structures:
A cross-cultural examination of the rise and fall of empires across human history in comparison with the rise of modern “empires”.

Readings:

- Polybius, *The Histories*.

Bibliography:

- Chassebœuf de Volney, Constantin-François, *The Ruins, Or, Meditation on the Revolutions of Empires: And the Law of Nature* (online).
10. Ancient political thought and cross-cultural interpretations of leadership in the 21st century:
The re-emergence of ancient political thought in the 21st century and effective leadership in contemporary politics.

Readings:

- Coterrell, A. et al. (ed.) *Leadership Lessons from the Ancient World*
- Josiah Ober¹ and Tomer J. Perry: "Thucydides as prospect theorist" *The Journal for Ancient Greek and Roman Political Thought*
- Richard Fernando Buxton (ed.) *Aspects of Leadership in Xenophon*, HISTOS Supplement 5, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2016
- P. Cartledge, *Ancient Greek Political Thought in Practice*

Bibliography:

- Balot, R., *Greek Political Thought*
- Helm, L. (ed.) *Comparative Political Leadership*
- *The Encyclopaedia of Leadership*
- *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Greek Political Thought*

- K. Lance, *The Wisdom of Alexander the Great*
- *The Routledge Companion to Leadership*

Readings

Bibliography

Course Requirements

Grading Scheme

(1) Participation (including presentations, postings, minutes, and class discussion) counts for 50%.

(2) A paper topic proposal of ca. 750 words is due at the end of the program. An electronic version of the paper should be sent to the following e-mail address: The final paper counts for 50%. All papers should focus on the texts and authors discussed in class and mentioned in the syllabus and should be approved in consultation with the instructor(s).

Written assignments must be typed, 1.5 spaced, with reasonable margins and 12 point font. They should be 2 pages in length and free of spelling errors, conform to correct English grammar, and use accurate, precise vocabulary. All written work must conform to the Chicago Manual of Style (www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html). You do not need to attach a separate list of the primary sources and secondary literature cited throughout the paper. Late submissions will be penalized with one letter grade (e.g. A to B) per day.

Tape-Recording Policy: Students are not authorized to make recordings during class without prior permission from the instructor(s).