

Revised Assignment Schedule

Tuesday, September 29: Discussion Day (meet as class without Jack).

Thursday, October 1: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book III (meet as class without Jack).

Tuesday, October 6: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book IV.

Due: Paper 1: “Were the Athenians Acting in Accordance with Justice?” (5-7 pages).

As a historian, Thucydides is only occasionally explicit in his judgment regarding the morality of the Peloponnesian war. Determine whether or not Thucydides believed the war to be just, and whether or not he regarded it as worthwhile. Were the Athenians acting justly in his opinion? Be explicit in your evidence. Were the Athenians acting justly in *your* opinion? Be explicit in your argumentation. Does Lysistrata shed light on the war? If so, how?

The purpose of this paper is to derive evidence for moral principles from particular situations. It asks that you judge history and defend your judgment. Ultimately, this paper rests on a clarification of the conditions that make a war just. Is it ever acceptable to initiate a war? Is it ever acceptable to break a treaty? As readers of history, we know the outcome of the war, yet the Athenians did not. Does the resolution of the war make any difference regarding our judgment? Are the Athenians more or less just because they were unaware of the war’s outcome? And, if Lysistrata is right, and the Athenians ultimately wanted to go to war, does that change your judgment?

Thursday, October 8: Discussion, *Republic* so far.

Tuesday, October 13: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book V.

Thursday, October 15: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book VI.

Tuesday, October 20: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book VII.

Thursday, October 22: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book VIII.

Tuesday, October 27: **Read:** Plato, *Republic*, Book IX and IX.

Thursday, October 29: Discussion on the Republic.

Tuesday, November 3: **Read:** Plato: Statesman.

Thursday, November 5: **Re-Read:** Plato: Statesman.

Tuesday, November 10: Discussion Day.

Thursday, November 12: Read: Aristophanes, *The Clouds*.

Due: Paper 2: “Is knowledge an appropriate source of political authority?” (6-8 pages).

Plato defines justice in terms of a hierarchical organization of the city-state. A just state is one that is governed by those who have access to the Good, in this case, the Philosopher-Kings. Is this a fair distribution of power? Is the guarantee of good decision making more important than equality of opportunity? Is Plato’s criticism of democracy convincing?

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the considerations inherent in a definition of justice. What and who do we take into account when we define such a term. What is the purpose of the state? Should the state be regarded as an association of individuals or should it be regarded as an entity unto itself. This paper requires that you give the classical absence of individual rights the benefit of the doubt.

Some people are simply more capable of making policy decisions than others. Should we not take a person's capabilities into account before we allow them to participate in decisions that effect all members of society?

Tuesday, November 17: **Read:** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I & II.

Thursday, November 19: **Read:** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book III.

Thursday, November 26: Thanksgiving Day, No class.

Tuesday, November 24: **Read:** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book IV.

Tuesday, December 1: **Read:** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book V & VI.

Thursday, December 3: **Read:** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book VII.

Tuesday, December 8: **Read:** Aristotle, *Politics*, Book VIII

Thursday, December 10: Discussion Day.

Final Paper, due at scheduled exam time: Tuesday, December 15, 1 p.m.

Choose one theme that we have discussed throughout the semester but has not been the subject of any of the previous papers. Ask a question about it and attempt to answer the question (that will be the title of the paper). Show how the theme has developed over time. Enumerate the philosophers opinions and arguments pertaining to that theme and determine who you agree with and why.

*This paper is both exposition and opinion. It asks that you isolate a particular strand within the larger conversation and interpret what you think the more subtle conclusions of our six philosophers have been. Finally, it asks you to determine which position is both the most convincing, and whether or not these conclusions are transferable to the modern world. **Ultimately, this paper asks you to determine what lessons we can learn from the ancient texts we have studied.** What can contemporary political theorists preserve? What should they discard and why? (10 – 15 pages)*