

It is my way to suffer no impediment, no love of ease, no avocation whatever, to chill the ardour, to break the continuity, or divert the completion of my literary pursuits.

John Milton

For genius, all over the world, stands hand in hand, and one shock of recognition runs the whole circle round.

Herman Melville

Honors 354.1

ELEMENTS OF POLITICS

Spring 2008

Office Hours: 328 Greenlaw after class, MW 5:45-6:15 and by appointment

Email addresses: jagoldbe@email.unc.edu (school); amicis@earthlink.net (home)

Course Requirements: three 750 and two 1000 word precis, final exam

Texts: Homer, *The Odyssey*, Harper

Plato, *Protagoras*.

Plato, *The Roots of Political Philosophy*, ed. Thomas Pangle

Plato, *The Symposium*, Focus

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Joe Sachs

Aristotle, *Politics*, trans. C. D. C. Reeve

Plutarch, Course Pack, (Student Stores)

Virgil, *Aeneid*, trans. Mandelbaum

Cicero, *The Republic, The Laws*, Oxford

Jan. 9 Heraclitus (ca 544-484 B.C.), Homer, *The Odyssey*

Jan. 14 *The Odyssey*; Plutarch (46?--c. 120 A.D.): *Pericles*

Jan. 16 *The Odyssey*,

Jan. 23 Plato (ca 429-347): *Minos, Laches*

Jan. 28 Plato, *Alcibiades I* Plutarch: *Alcibiades*

Jan. 30 *Alcibiades I*

Feb. 1 **PRECIS I** (750 words)

Feb. 4 Plato (ca 429-347), *Protagoras*

Feb. 6 *Protagoras*

Feb. 11 *Protagoras*; Plutarch, *Dion*

Feb. 13 Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), *Nicomachean Ethics*: Book I; Book II: 1-6; Book III: 3;
Book IV: 3

Feb. 15 **PRECIS II** (750 words)

Feb. 18 *Nicomachean Ethics*: Book V: 1-8; Book VI

Feb. 20 *Nicomachean Ethics*: Book VII

- Feb. 25 *Nicomachean Ethics*: Books VIII-IX
- Feb. 27 *Nicomachean Ethics*: Book X
- Mar. 3 Aristotle, *Politics*: Book I (pp. 35-54); II: 1-5, 8 (55-63, 70-73); Plutarch: *Lycurgus*
- Mar. 5 *Politics*: III (86-117)
- Mar. 17 *Politics*: Books III-IV (86-146)
- Mar. 19 *Politics*: Book VI: 4-5 (186-190); Plutarch: *Solon*
- Mar. 21 **PRECIS III** (750 words)
- Mar. 24 *Politics*: Books VII-VIII (197-241)
- Mar. 26 Cicero: *The Republic*: Book I; Book III: iii-iv, viii-xxxv; Book V: v
- Mar. 28 **PRECIS IV** (1000 words)
- Mar. 31 Cicero: *The Republic*: Book VI; *The Laws*: Book I
- Apr. 2 Virgil (70-19 B.C.), *Aeneid* I-II
- Apr. 7 *Aeneid* III-VI
- Apr. 9 *Aeneid* VII-VIII
- Apr. 14 *Aeneid* IX-X
- Apr. 16 *Aeneid* XI
- Apr. 21 *Aeneid* XII
- Apr. 23 *The Symposium* **Final Examination**
- Apr. 25 **Precis V** (1000 words)
- May 5 4:00-7:00 *The Symposium* **Final Examination** (or Apr. 30)

STANDING ASSIGNMENT FOR EACH DAY OF CLASS: Be ready with at least two passages which you consider of fundamental importance for understanding the assigned reading. If you are puzzled by a passage, attempt to formulate carefully why you suspect that this passage is illuminating and what it is that confuses you about it. If you have an opinion as to what it means, attempt to show how this meaning bears upon the subject under discussion.

SUGGESTED SUMMER READINGS: Plutarch, *Lives* (of Romans); Cicero, *On Duties*; Livy, *History of Rome*, Tacitus, *Annals*