

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

Autumn 2006

Professor Goldberg: 328 Greenlaw Hours: MW 5:45-6:15 , after class & by appt.

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Course requirements: 5 precis, one essay, a final exam

The Epic of Gilgamesh (Stanford U. Press)

Plato, *Euthyphro* in *Four Texts on Socrates* (Cornell U. Press)

Bible

Augustine, Letters (Coursepack), *City of God* (handout)

Medieval Political Philosophy:

Alfarabi

Avicenna

Averroes

Maimonides

Albo

Abравanel

Marsilius of Padua

Dante, *On Monarchy*

Aquinas, *Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas*

Dante, *Divine Comedy*

Aug. 23 Introduction: Xenophanes (ca 570-475 B.C.); *Gilgamesh*

Aug. 28 Bible *Genesis*

Aug. 30 *Genesis*

Sept. 6 *Exodus*

Sept. 11 Bible: *Leviticus* 19, 24, 26; *Numbers* 12, 20; *Deuteronomy* 3.23-29, 4, 9, 10.12-22, 20; *Judges* 2, *I Samuel* 8; 15-18.12; *Ecclesiastes*; *Matthew* 5-7, 17:24-27, 22:15-22

Sept. 13 Plato, *Euthyphro*

Sept. 15 **Precis One** due (750 words)

Sept. 18 *Romans*

Sept. 20 Augustine (354-430), Letters: XCI, CXXXVIII; *City of God*: XIX: 4-28

Sept. 25 Alfarabi (pp. 24-82)

Sept. 27 Avicenna (pp. 96-121); Averroes (pp. 164-186)

Sept. 29 **Precis Two** due (750 words)

- Oct. 2 Maimonides (189-236)
- Oct. 4 Albo (pp. 238-253); Abravanel (pp. 255-270)
- Oct. 9 Aquinas, *Treatise on Law* (pp. 3-64)
- Oct. 11 Aquinas, *Treatise* (pp. 65-91)
- Oct. 16 Aquinas, *Of Justice* (pp. 105-26); *Summa Contra Gentiles* (CP: pp. 15-23)
- Oct. 18 Aquinas, *On Kingship* (pp. 175-95)
- Oct. 23 Marsilius, *Defender of the Peace* (pp. 441-479)
- Oct. 25 Marsilius (pp. 479-491)
- Oct. 27 **Essay One** due (1000-1500 words)
- Oct. 30 Dante, *On Monarchy* (pp. 419-438)
- Nov. 1 *Inferno*
- Nov. 6 *Inferno*
- Nov. 8 *Inferno*
- Nov. 13 *Inferno*
- Nov. 15 *Purgatorio*
- Nov. 20 *Purgatorio*
- Nov. 26 *Purgatorio*
- Nov. 28 *Paradiso*
- Dec. 2 *Paradiso*
- Dec. 4 *Paradiso*
- Dec. 9 **Essay Two** due (1000-1500 words)
- Dec. 14 **Final Exam:** *Paradiso*

DAILY ASSIGNMENT: For each and every class you are to isolate and analyze at least two passages which you think are quite significant for understanding the assigned reading. Be prepared either to call attention to that special significance or to raise some question pertaining to the passages with which you have wrestled.

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING: Plato, *Timaeus*; Aristotle, *De Anima*, *Metaphysics*; Bible; Augustine, *City of God*; selections in *Medieval Political Philosophy*