

POLI 407 Classical Political Thought

Pre/Co-Requisites: POLI 310 or 326

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course consists of a close reading of Thucydides' The Peloponnesian War, Rex Warner translation, Penguin edition. There are other translations available and, of course, there are several Greek editions. Warner's translation is generally reliable and Penguin products are inexpensive; that is why I assigned them. You can use other editions if you wish, but detailed references in the lectures will be to the edition assigned.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

There are many ways of reading Thucydides: as strategist, historian, "political historian," or even as a political scientist. Classicists read him chiefly as the author of complex locutions. The approach used in this course is to consider Thucydides' text as a dramatic sequel to the tragedians and the work of a kind of political scientist. That means that his "write-up" (as he called his account of the long war between Athens and Sparta) was more than history in the sense of Herodotus, even if it was less than Aristotelean political science. Students will have the opportunity, in a concentrated period of time, to read this work with care and attention and to learn from as well as about a very careful writer whose work has been available to, and studied by, about a hundred generations.

Because it is a long book, I strongly recommend that students begin their reading prior to the first class.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

Thucydides, The Peloponnesian War, trans. Rex Warner.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Term Paper	50%	March 31
Take-home final	50%	April 18
Total	100%	

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Jan. 9-Feb 17	Peloponnesian War	Books 1-4
Feb. 27- Apr 12	Peloponnesian War	Books 5-8

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change if the need arises.

ASSIGNMENT(S)

Students are expected to keep up with the lectures by reading Thucydides' text.

Submissions of your term paper and exam are by way of a drop-box on D2L. It is due April 3, 2023. I will return it to you on the last day of class. There is a faculty rule that requires that students must know at least 30% of their grade by the end of term. You will know 50% of your grade by then.

In general, to get an A in the course you have to read the text and make notes as well as attend the lectures and make notes. You also have to budget sufficient time to compose an analytical term paper, as described below. This means you have to think carefully about what Thucydides argues (as well as what the author whom you discuss in the term paper argues) and be able to present a clear analysis of both Thucydides and the commentator.

You should also plan to revise your paper and your final exam at least twice. You should have someone else proof-read the final text of both your paper and your exam before submitting it.

Write clearly and concisely. If you have any doubts concerning your ability to write grammatically correct and stylistically pleasing essays, learn how to do the job right. I would recommend consulting William Strunk and E.B. White, The Elements of Style. Any novel by Ernest Hemmingway provides a useful model.

Use credible sources and a reputable citation format. The Chicago Manual of Style is one such example, but there are others. Getting an A, no matter how intelligent you may be, takes time. Give yourself enough time to master the material and to present it properly. There is no substitute for extended effort. More specifically, an A paper or exam shows evidence of insightful analysis that goes beyond the material presented in lectures. An A paper or exam contains no typos or grammatical errors.

If you are looking for a D or a bare pass, ignore everything above. Don't read any instructions. Don't take the time actually to read Thucydides or whatever secondary source you choose to discuss. Just share your unsourced and unsubstantiated opinions. Most students who succeed in getting a D try to wing it, rely on such dubious sources as Wikipedia, and generally waste their time.

The letter grades described above (consider them a rubric if you wish) and what you need to do to get one or the other, form a continuum. Other grades are in the middle someplace.

ESSAYS/RESEARCH PAPER(S)

The term paper is expected to be between 1500 and 2500 words (excluding citations and bibliography) and should consist of an analysis of a scholarly article, book, or book chapter on a question or problem raised by Thucydides. If you have any doubt regarding the suitability of your choice, check with the course instructor. You can certainly criticize an author, in the sense of disagreeing with him or her, but first you need to show that you have understood what the author is arguing. That is the primary meaning of analysis. For the record, the two terms, analysis and criticism, are actually quite close in meaning. Analysis comes from the Greek word meaning to unravel, to loosen, to undo and so to investigate, whereas criticism (critic, critique, etc.) comes from another Greek word, kritikos, meaning one who is able to judge by being able to separate and decide or distinguish, which is rather close to analysis.

The quality of your writing counts. This means, to repeat, you are to use English grammar, proper sentence structure and punctuation, clear argument and organization, proper and consistent references (whatever convention you prefer is acceptable; just be consistent).

The exam is due at the end of the day (23.59.59) April 18, 2023 and is to be submitted by way of the course drop-box. When you submit your paper or exam, make sure you include your name, ID number, and course number. Make sure your paper is double spaced. You are allowed to submit your paper and your exam prior to the deadline.

PARTICIPATION

Because this is a lecture course, no grade component is assigned for participation. That said, voluntary participation, even if it consists simply in raising questions, is always helpful to students (especially to students who do not ask questions) and is useful for the course instructor.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

There is no mid-term exam.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Final Exam	Yes.
Format	Take home.
Modality	Completed exam submitted online.
Type	Long answer or essay.
Duration	5 days.
Aids	Whatever aids you wish to use are acceptable.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and, as indicated above, the quality of your writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>, or to read the books and authors suggested above.

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

Late penalties of 5% a day will be assessed unless students have a persuasive reason for a late submission.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or tmeet during office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is a good idea to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one-on-one meeting outside these hours. If you have any doubts about proper email etiquette, please feel free to consult: <https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087>

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending or receiving texts and browsing the Web can be disruptive to others, so don't.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

Campus Spiritual Resources

Your issue might be spiritual rather than mental. The University of Calgary also plays host to chaplains (faith representatives) from many faiths. Find contact information at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/faith-spirituality/about-us/student-services/faith-spirituality/about-us/faith-representatives>.