EXCEPTIONAL. UNCONVENTIONAL.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 2016
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2510FAO
ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL POLITICAL THOUGHT
Tuesday 8:30-10:00 OA2008 – Thursday 8:30-10:00 OA2018
DR. D. WEST

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 10-11:30 or By Appointment dwest@lakeheadu.ca

This course will cover major contributions to Western political thought through a survey of texts that present the history of ideas about politics during the classical and mediaeval periods of Western history. In the course we will be reading translations of the work of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas and Machiavelli. These thinkers represent the development of ideas about justice, history, philosophy and political action that provide the foundation for the Western perspective on the world. We will examine their ideas through the exposition of a number of specific themes that connect them to our more modern discourse about the nature of political action and ideology.

GRADING:

ATTENDANCE 10%
(Attendance will be taken for each class.)
MID-TERM TEST 25%
(A test consisting of a choice of 2 out of 5 essay questions will take place on October 18 in class.)
COMPARATIVE ESSAY 25%
(The essay topics will be discussed in class. The aim is to compare the ideas of at least two thinkers without using any secondary sources. Essay is due in class November 24.
TERM ASSIGNMENT 40%
The TERM ASSIGNMENT will consist of a number of comparative essay questions (probably three of six) which require the student to discuss the ideas of all of the thinkers we cover in the course. It will be available on December 1st on the D2L site for this course and submitted by December 6th to dwest@lakeheadu.ca.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:
Four Texts on Socrates Translated with notes by Thomas G. West and Grace Starry West. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1998.
The Prince. Niccolo Machiavelli Translated by Robert Adams. New York: WW Norton, 1992.

Any form of "Academic Fraud" as outlined in the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures (see also University Calendar Regulation IX) will not be tolerated in this course.

Class Schedule

Introduction: What is Political Thought?
Reading: Introduction in West & West

Plato - The Euthyphro
Reading: West & West 41-62

Plato - The Apology of Socrates and **The Crito**
Reading: West & West 63-114

Aristophanes - The Clouds
Reading: West & West 115-76

Aristotle
Reading: Aristotle: D2L

Review and Mid-term Examination

Cicero
Reading: Cicero: D2L

St. Augustine
Reading: Augustine: D2L

St. Thomas Aquinas
Reading: Aquinas: D2L

Machiavelli - The Prince
Reading: Machiavelli The Prince

Machiavelli - The Prince
Reading: Machiavelli The Prince

Review and Final Examination

GOOD FORTUNE AND HAVE A GOOD TERM