

POLS 430;
add 530

1. Full catalog information for each course to be dual-listed, including the course numbers (or proposed course numbers), title, credits, semester offering (if applicable), prerequisites, and description. Dual-listed courses bear common numbers, e.g., 580 (480).

POL S 530 (430) Foundations of Western Political Thought (430 Cross-listed with CL ST) (3-0) Cr. 3.

Prereq: 6 credits in political science, philosophy, or European history

Study of original texts in political thought ranging from the classical period to the renaissance. Topics such as justice, freedom, virtue, the allocation of political power, the meaning of democracy, human nature, and natural law.

2. Graduate faculty status of the proposed instructor.

Alex Tuckness is a full professor and member of the Graduate Faculty.

3. Number of the dual-listed course credits the department will permit to be used to meet the requirements for an advanced degree. This limit includes dual-listed courses taken in all departments.

Our department does not set a cap other than whatever is deemed appropriate by the POS committee.

4. The differential expectations for graduate students and undergraduates. What additional work will be required for graduate students enrolled in the course? Please describe this work, not in abstract terms (such as "more in-depth participation") but in terms of concrete measurable outcomes or other tangible evidence. Welcome inclusions: specific examples of the additional assignments with details about paper length; the number of additional readings; the length and frequency of oral presentations; portfolio expectations; indications of how these graduate requirements are weighted in the course grade (ex. 40% of final grade); comparisons with undergraduate expectations.

This would work parallel to its companion course which is already dual listed (431/531). Together they cover the history of western political thought. Graduate students are expected to write a longer research paper, do additional readings, and do an in-class presentation. Here are the course requirements for the undergraduate and graduate courses:

430 Course requirements

- 1) A 1200-1800 word paper (10%)
- 2) A midterm (20%)
- 3) A 3000-3600 (30%)
- 4) A Final Exam 7:30AM. (30%)
- 5) Class participation-including attendance (10%)

530 Course Requirement

- 1) 3000 word paper accompanying oral presentation (15%)
- 2) A 20-30 minute class presentation on Plato, Seneca, or Machiavelli (15%)
- 3) 6000 word research paper on a topic proposed by the student and approved by the instructor (40%)
- 4) Final Exam (20%)
- 5) Class participation including attendance (10%)

The graduate term papers are twice as long as the undergraduate papers and will require more research. The graduate students are supposed to do extra reading from a primary source for their presentation, demonstrating the ability understand, evaluate, and present primary source material working independently. They will be expected to read one of the following:

Plato, *The Laws of Plato*, trans. Thomas Pangle, (University of Chicago Press, 1980).

Seneca, *Moral and Political Essays*, ed. Cooper and Pocope (Cambridge University Press, 1995)

Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, translated by Mansfield and Tarcov, (University of Chicago Press, 1996)

Reason(s) the course is considered sufficiently rigorous and of such an advanced nature as to challenge graduate students.

Typical authors covered Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, and Machiavelli, all of whom are frequently assigned in graduate classes.

5. Academic advantages and disadvantages accruing to graduate students taking this course with undergraduates.

The main academic advantage is that we would be able to offer more options to graduate students interested in political theory than would otherwise be possible. It would not be possible, for enrollment and budgetary reasons, to offer a separate graduate version of this class. Since material covered is suitable for both graduate and

undergraduate students, it is a win-win. Course evaluations from graduate students in the companion course (531) have been very positive.

6. The place of the course in a graduate student's program of study and why it is not considered a "remedial" undertaking intended to overcome deficiencies in the student's preparation for graduate work.

This could be a core course for a student with a theory emphasis or an elective for other students. It is not a remedial course nor is it a prerequisite for any other course.

7. The role of the course in an undergraduate's degree program and the academic qualifications undergraduates must have to take this course.

The course can serve as an upper level course for political science majors, classical studies majors, as well as students pursuing a minor or simply taking an elective. The prerequisite is at least 6 credits in political science, history, or philosophy.

8. The name of the person writing the proposal.

Alex Tuckness

Political Science 430

Western Political Thought: Plato to Machiavelli

Fall 2014

Dr. Alex Tuckness
Professor of Political Science
Iowa State University

Course Location and Time: Molecular Biology 1428, MWF 9:00-9:50

Office: 529 Ross Hall

Office Hours: 529 Ross Hall MWF 10:10-11:30AM; T 1:30-3:00 and by appointment.

Office Phone: 515 294-8910; E-mail Address: tuckness@iastate.edu

The course page on Blackboard will contain reading questions, study guides for the exams, and other course announcements. Students are expected to check Blackboard regularly for announcements.

Course Description and Objectives:

In this course, we will explore and evaluate the way great thinkers from the past have answered fundamental political questions like “Who should rule?” and “How should they rule?” This will involve considering what is the best form of government and what ends the government may legitimately pursue. What are a good citizen and a just government like? The four authors we will study are the most influential of the Ancient, Medieval, and Renaissance periods: Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Machiavelli. All of the readings will be from primary source material. Students who successfully complete the course should be able to discuss possible interpretations of the texts covered, give persuasive arguments in favor of the interpretation they prefer, and critically evaluate the content of the theories themselves. Students will develop these skills in part by active participation in class discussions.

Required Texts:

1. Plato, *Republic*, trans. Grube and Reeve (Hackett, 1992).
2. Aristotle, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens* (revised student version), ed. Stephen Everson, (Cambridge, 1996).
3. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics, Second Edition*, trans. Terrance Irwin (Hackett, 1999).
4. Aquinas, *Aquinas on Law, Morality, and Politics, Second Edition*. eds. Baumgarth and Regan (Hackett, 2002).
5. Machiavelli, *The Prince*, eds. Skinner and Price (Cambridge University Press 1988).

Course requirements

There are four components to each student’s grade:

- 1) A 1200-1800 word paper due on Sept. 29, assignment given out on Sept. 3 (10%).
- 2) A midterm on Oct. 17. (20%)
- 3) A 3000-3600 word paper due on Dec. 3, assigned Nov 5 (30%).
- 4) A Final Exam on the date specified by the University, tentatively Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30AM. (30%)
- 5) Class participation-including attendance (10%)

Grading Scale:

A	93%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	74%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	63%
D-	60%
F	Less than 60%

(Your final grade is a weighted average of your grades on the individual component. Students who have high grades for participation will receive the benefit of rounding up, for example 89.7% would round up to an A-.)

Course Policies

Late papers will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade per day (counting weekends as one day) except by special permission from the instructor. If problems arise students should contact the instructor before the time at which the paper is due. Exams are docked one letter grade per day unless a documented illness or similar issue prevents a student from taking the exam. Accommodation will be given to students who must miss an exam for official university business or religious observance. Class participation grades are based on attendance and the quality and quantity of participation in class discussions. Students may miss three classes without penalty. Additional absences will result in a 10% reduction of the participation grade. Students who miss class for official university business or religious observance will not be penalized if the instructor receives prior notification (where possible). If a student has a serious medical condition or may be contagious the student should stay home and inform the instructor immediately for arranging accommodations.

Class Discussion: This is a discussion based class and students are expected to do the readings and consult the questions over the reading posted on Blackboard before class so as to be prepared to discuss. I will frequently call on students to encourage students to come prepared and to get wider participation in the class discussions.

Academic Dishonesty

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Disability Accommodation

Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact (instructor name) to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with (instructor name), you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the [Disability Resources Office](#), located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu . Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Dead Week

This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook <http://www.provost.iastate.edu/resources/faculty-handbook> .

Harassment and Discrimination

Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, [Student Assistance](#) at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#) at 515-294-7612.

Religious Accommodation

If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students Office](#) or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#).

Contact Information

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

Disclaimer: I reserve the right to change the course requirements and schedule within guidelines permitted by the university if an arrangement is not working. Students will always be given fair prior notice.

Course Schedule:

Week beginning	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8/25	Introduction to Course	Republic 1	Republic 2
9/1	Labor Day	Republic 3	Republic 4
9/8	Republic 5	Republic 6	Republic 7
9/15	Republic 8	Republic 9	Republic 10
9/22	Nicomachean Ethics 1	Ethics 2	Ethics 3
9/29	Paper 1 Due	Ethics 4	Ethics 5
10/6	Ethics 6	Ethics 7	Ethics 8
10/13	Ethics 9	Ethics 10	Midterm
10/20	Politics 1	Politics 2	Politics 3
10/27	Politics 4	Politics 5.1-2, 5.7-11, 6.1-3	Politics 7.1-12
11/3	Politics 7.13-8.7	Constitution of Athens, pp.243-263	Aquinas, pp. 211-217; 1-16
11/10	Aquinas, 16-37	Aquinas, 42-55,	Aquinas, 59-75
11/17	Aquinas 76-96	Aquinas 130-133, 136-151, 158-160	Aquinas, 164-172, 182-189.
11/26	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
12/1	Aquinas 190-210	Second Paper Due	The Prince, pp. 3-34
12/8	The Prince 35-62	The Prince 63-91	Review for Final

Final Exam Tuesday, Dec. 16 at 7:30AM in our normal room. You will have two hours for the exam.