Introduction:
“POLITICS & JUSTICE” might serve as a subtitle for this course, as our studies will find this a common theme throughout the texts that we will read this semester. The course introduces students to classical and medieval political thought. Students will study some of the most important written contributions to the formation of “The West.” Lectures will provide students with some contextual background to the readings, but will largely focus upon guiding students through the textual content of the readings themselves. It is essential to the successful completion of this course that students read the assigned material and attend classes regularly.

Lab Sessions:
Teaching Assistants are provided for your success in this course. Beginning Week 3, they will hold weekly lab sessions to lead discussions, review and answer questions, instruct on successful essay writing for this course, and help prepare you for exams. Attendance at labs is optional. However your participation in these labs & your wise use of the Teaching Assistants will help your performance in the course, as well as helping you to get the most you can from the course materials & studies.

Laptop Use in Class:
Laptop use in class is permitted FOR NOTE TAKING ONLY. Using laptops in class for browsing the web, checking email, admiring family photos, playing games, etc., is distracting for other students, rude, and harmful to your health. If you use your laptop in class for any reason other than taking notes you will be asked to stop bringing your laptop to class.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance at lectures is required. Students absent for 3 classes during the semester will have their final grade lowered by one-half letter grade (eg. A to A-). Absence from 4 classes will drop your final grade by one full letter grade (eg. A to B). Students absent from 5 or more classes will receive a failing grade for the course, unless they choose to withdraw before University deadlines. UNIVERSITY EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THESE PENALTIES.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:
10% Quizzes: 6 quizzes
20% Writing Assignment: an assignment in reading & writing (4 to 5 pages).
30% Formal Essay: A polished essay of 8 to 10 pages, responding to your choice of questions (provided by the instructor) about a philosopher of your choice (from among those included in our readings). Your essays will include explanations and analysis of the text in question, including enough basic summary of textual material to inform readers and to well situate your argument about that text. A good summary earns a B, a good summary with good explanation earns a B+, and a good summary with good explanation and good analysis gets your paper into the A range. More details will be available in class and on blackboard.
20% Midterm Exam
20% Final Exam

(Detailed information and instructions for each assignment will be made available in class & on course blackboard)

**Late assignments (including all exercises, papers and exams completed at times other than the scheduled times, regardless of arrangements made with the instructor) will be lowered one-half letter grade from the earned grade (eg. B will become B-). University excused absences are exempted from this penalty.

**A note regarding grade disputes: I am quite willing to discuss your grades with you and make any necessary corrections should I agree they are warranted. However, if you have questions/disputes about grades assigned for any particular assignment, please see me to discuss these immediately upon receipt of the grade/return of the assignment. Questions about grading will not be entertained after 1 week has passed beyond the return to students of the relevant assignment. Without exception, no grade change will be considered after 1 week has passed from the first class in which assignments are returned to students.
REQUIRED TEXTS:
The Republic of Plato, trans Allan Bloom
Plato, Gorgias, trans. Donald J. Zeyl
Plato and Aristophanes: Four Texts on Socrates

CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:
(This schedule and will be followed at a pace according to class discussion. Students must govern their reading accordingly. So, pay careful attention to announcements for reading & quiz dates)

Course Introduction
Sophocles, Antigone (Blackboard)

Plato, Republic (selections T.B.A.) **Quiz follows**
Plato, Gorgias **Quiz follows**
Plato, Apology 17a to 19d
Aristophanes, Clouds
Plato, Apology 19e to 35e
Plato, Apology 36a to 38b, 38c to 42a
Plato, Crito **Quiz follows**

** MIDTERM EXAM**
Aristotle, Ethics, (selections T.B.A.) **Quiz follows**
Aristotle, Politics (selections T.B.A.)

Film in class: Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar (text on blackboard) ** DUE: Writing Assignment**

Genesis (selections T.B.A.)
Augustine, City of God (Blackboard, selections T.B.A.)
Aquinas, On Kingship (Blackboard, selections T.B.A.)
Aquinas, Summa Theologica (Blackboard, selections T.B.A.) **Quiz follows**
Augustine, Aquinas, selections on “Just War” (Blackboard)
Contemporary arguments on “Just War” (Blackboard) **Quiz follows**
Film in class: Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice (text on blackboard)
The Book of Mormon, selections on justice & mercy (T.B.A.)
Conclusions (Last Class) **DUE: Formal Essay**

**FINAL EXAM**
PLEASE NOTE:

Preventing Sexual Harassment
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the University but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities
Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You may contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.