“...[A]ll the same, compelled by the truth, we said that neither city nor regime will ever become perfect, nor yet will a man become perfect in the same way either, before some necessity chances to constrain those few philosophers who aren’t vicious, those now called useless, to take charge of a city, whether they want to or not, and the city to obey; or a true erotic passion for true philosophy flows from some divine inspiration into the sons of those who hold power or the office of king, or into the fathers themselves. I deny that there is any reason why either or both of these things is impossible. If that were the case we would justly be laughed at for uselessly saying things that are like prayers. Or isn’t that so?”

-- Republic 499b-c

Political Science 4081
History of Political Theory: Ancient and Medieval
Fall 2000

Instructor: James Stoner
         Stubbs 208B (tel: 578-2538)
         e-mail: poston@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm

Course requirements:
- Daily quizzes on the reading [20%]
- Five-page papers, due September 15 and December 1 [15% + 15%]
- In-class examination, on October 18 [20%]
- Final examination, on December 8 [30%]

Graduate students and Honors Option: Extra sessions and ten-page paper on Plato’s Laws [worth the same as the final; percentages adjusted accordingly]

Books available for purchase:
- Plato and Aristophanes, Four Texts on Socrates [tr. West & West] (Cornell)
- Plato, Statesman [tr. Benardete] (Chicago)
- Aristotle, Politics [tr. Simpson] (North Carolina)
- Cicero, On Duties [tr. Atkins] (Cambridge)
- Augustine, Confessions [tr. Chadwick] (Oxford)
- Aquinas, On Kingship, to the King of Cyprus [tr. Phelan] (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies)
- Aquinas, Commentary on Aristotle’s Politics (typescript)
- More, Utopia [tr. Surtz] (Yale)
- Plato, Laws [tr. Pangle] (Chicago)

Website:
A website for this course can be found at <http://web2.bus.lsu.edu/courses/POLI4081_f2000>
Registered students will have access to this site, as will auditors. Watch the site for summaries of lectures, study questions, and discussion.

Library Reserve:
The readings for the course will be made available on reserve in Middleton Library, as will a selection of secondary works. It goes without saying that the latter are no substitute for the assigned reading; indeed, read without knowledge of the originals they are more apt to mislead than assist you.

SYLLABUS:

Mon., 8/21 Introduction

I. THE PHILOSOPHER, THE CITIZEN, AND THE STATESMAN
II. THE CONSTITUTION (POLITY)

Wed., 9/20  *Politics*, Book II
Mon., 9/25  *Politics*, Book III, ch. 1-11
Mon., 10/2  *Politics*, Book IV
Wed., 10/4  *Politics*, Book V
Mon., 10/9  *Politics*, Book VI
Wed., 10/11  *Politics*, Book VII
Mon., 10/16  *Politics*, Book VIII
Wed., 10/18  IN-CLASS EXAMINATION

III. FROM REPUBLICAN VIRTUE TO CHRISTIAN LOVE

Wed., 10/25  *On Duties*, Book II
Mon., 10/30  *On Duties*, Book III
Wed., 11/1  Augustine, *Confessions*, Books I-VI
Mon., 11/6  *Confessions*, Books VII-X
Wed., 11/8  *Confessions*, Books XI-XIII

IV. TOWARDS A CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH

Mon., 11/13  Aquinas, *On Kingship to the King of Cyprus*, Book I
Wed., 11/15  *On Kingship to the King of Cyprus*, Book II
Mon., 11/20  Aquinas, *Commentary on Aristotle’s Politics*
Wed., 11/22  *Commentary on Aristotle’s Politics*

Wed., 11/29  *Utopia*, Book II

Fri., 12/1  PAPER DUE

Fri., 12/8  FINAL EXAMINATION (3:00-5:00)