



**POLS5000/6000 – Foundations of Political Thought: Ancient and Judeo-Christian**  
Spring 2025

**Course Description**

Historical origins and foundations of western political thought in Greek and Roman antiquity, ancient Judaism and early Christianity. Works of Plato and Aristotle.

Graduate students should register for POLS6000 and will be held to higher standards and/or additional work.

3.0 Units.

**Course Outcomes and Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- understand and write about foundational thinkers in political theory
- compare different interpretations of foundational political ideas and concepts
- critically assess the relevance of Ancient Greek and Judeo-Christian texts for contemporary political life

**Course Requirements**

• Preparation and Active Participation	10%	each session
• Reading Responses	20%	1 per week
• 1 Presentation	10%	variable
• 3 Take-home Essays	60%	Feb 7, Mar 14, Apr 27

**Grading Scale**

Grades will be assigned according to the standard U of U grading scale.

A	94-100%
A-	90-93.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	84-86.9%
B-	80-83.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	74-76.9%
C-	70-73.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	64-66.9%
D-	60-63.9%
F	0-59.9%

**University Policies**

**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

***Center for Disability & Access***

801-581-5020

[disability.utah.edu](http://disability.utah.edu)

65 Student Services Building

201 S 1460 E

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

**Safety at the U**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

***Campus Police & Department of Public Safety***

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

***Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action***

801-581-8365

[oeo.utah.edu](http://oeo.utah.edu)

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

***Office of the Dean of Students***

801-581-7066

[deanofstudents.utah.edu](http://deanofstudents.utah.edu)

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

**Campus Police & Department of Public Safety**

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

**Center for Campus Wellness**

801-581-7776

[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)

350 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Academic Misconduct**

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

*"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."*

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).