

PLSC 380
Christian Political Thought
Spring 2004

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This course is designed to immerse you in the study of Christian political thought. While this class concerns the history of political thought, our approach will be fundamentally philosophic (what we can learn **from** each thinker) rather than historical (what we can learn **about** each thinker).

Wks. 1-5: Biblical politics
Wks. 6-8: Chr. Natl Law Politics
Wks. 9-12: Chr. And Nat Rts.
Wks. 13-15: Chr. And Liberty (Religious and economic)

Required texts

Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics* (Baumgarth and Regan edition)
Augustine. *Political Writings* (? translation)
Bible, (New King James Version recommended)
Filmer, *Patriarcha and Other Writings* (Sommerville edition)
Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Tully edition)
Locke, *Two Treatises of Government* (Laslett edition)

Grading

In-class work: 20%
(participation, quizzes, etc.)
Seminar paper: 20%
Paper #1: 20%
Paper #2: 20%
Final Exam: 20%

“You were not formed to live like brutes, but to pursue knowledge and virtue.”

-- Dante

Course Outline
(subject to revision)

Wk. 1: The Bible and Political Thought

T:
R:

Wk. 2: The Hebrew Polity

T:
R:

Wk. 3: The Hebrew Polity

T:
R:

Wk. 4: Politics and the New Testament

T:
R:

Wk. 5: Politics and the New Testament

T:
R:

Wk. 6: Augustine

M: Paper #1 due
T:
R:

Wk. 7: Aquinas

T:
R:

Wk. 8: Aquinas

T:
R:

Wk. 9: Filmer

M: Paper #2 due

T:

R:

Wk. 10: Filmer and Locke

T:

R:

Wk. 11: Locke, *First Treatise*

T:

R:

Wk. 12: Locke, *First Treatise*

T:

R:

Wk. 13: Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*

M: Paper #3 due

T: Augustine, Calvin, Puritans

R:

Wk. 14: Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*

T:

R:

Wk. 15:

T:

R: