

Hillsdale College
Van Andel School of Statesmanship

Spring, 2017
Kendall 236-B: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Politics 728-01-17SP
Plato's *Laws*

P. A. Rahe
214 Kendall Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday, 8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 2:20-5:00 p.m.; and by appointment. Call 607-2391 e-mail me at paul.rahe@hillsdale; or catch me before or after class. My office is in Kendall 214

The books which the student will probably want to purchase are listed below:

- Plato, The Laws of Plato, tr. Thomas Pangle (University of Chicago Press): ISBN-13: 978-0226671109
Alfarabi, The Political Writings, Volume II: Political Regime and Summary of Plato's Laws, tr. Charles E. Butterworth (Cornell University Press): ISBN-13: 978-0801453809
Allan Bloom, The Closing of the American Mind (Simon & Schuster): ISBN-13: 978-1451683202
M. M. Austin & P. Vidal-Naquet, Economic and Social History of Ancient Greece (California): ISBN-13: 978-0520042674
Aristotle, The Politics, ed. and tr. Peter Simpson (North Carolina): 978-0807846377
Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy, ed. J. M. Moore (California): ISBN-13: 978-0520029095
Plutarch, Greek Lives (Oxford): ISBN-13: 978-0192825018
Numa Denis Fustel de Coulanges, The Ancient City (Dover): 978-0486447308
Paul A. Rahe, Republics Ancient and Modern: the Ancien Régime in Classical Greece (University of North Carolina Press): ISBN-13: 978-0807844731.

Copies of the book on the list above should be available in the Campus Bookstore in the Grewcock Center and in the library.

There will be a preliminary examination in class on Wednesday, the 15th of February, covering everything assigned to be read as of that date. The final examination, which will be held in our normal classroom at the time and on the date specified by the college, will cover the entire course. Each student is required to write three typed, double-spaced, 3000-word papers in the course of the term. The first of these should be placed in the box outside my office at 214 Kendall Hall before 8 a.m. on the Tuesday Week IV; the second and third should be delivered in the same fashion by 8 a.m. on the Tuesday of Week X and on the Friday of Week XII. Each student is also required to write one typed, double-spaced, 6000-word paper. It should be placed in the box outside my office before 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 2nd of May; to avoid difficulties that

may arise if a paper is somehow misplaced, students should photocopy their papers before turning them in. Students will be penalized severely for turning papers in after the deadline. In grading the papers, I will pay careful attention to style as well as content. Paper topics will be assigned at least one week prior to the date each paper is due.

This will be a discussion course, not a lecture course. Classroom attendance is mandatory, and late arrival for class will not be tolerated. Each student is expected to have done the assigned reading for each and every class on time and to bring to class the material assigned for discussion.

To compute the term grade, the instructor will average each of the following – the two examination grades, the three 3000-word paper grades, and the grade assigned for the 6000-word paper – and then average the three resulting sums.

The following criteria are used for assigning numerical and letter grades to your papers and the essays on the final examination:

A (90-100): An excellent, outstanding piece of work with *all* of the following characteristics:

1. All of the pertinent data is presented without significant errors or omissions. All parts of the topic or question are addressed.
2. The evidence is thoughtfully deployed to support a coherent, clearly stated argument.
3. The writing is of high quality: accurate in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and diction; forceful and elegant in presentation throughout.
4. You have demonstrated a thorough understanding of both the question posed, the evidence assessed, and the facts presented.

B (80-89): A very good piece of work with the characteristics mentioned below:

1. The important evidence is completely presented and addressed. There may be minor omissions or misunderstandings but the answer is still reasonably complete.
2. The writing is of good quality, evidencing precision in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and diction. It need not be uniformly forceful and elegant.
3. Your essay is coherently and sensibly organized with the argument well-defined and logically presented.

C (70-79): An average, acceptable piece of work with some, if not all of the defects mentioned below:

1. The most important data is presented, although there may be errors or misunderstanding evident. Parts of the topic or question are not fully addressed.
2. There are errors evident in the grammar, spelling, punctuation, or diction which detract from the quality of the work.
3. The essay is not well organized; its argument does not unfold in a clear and logical fashion.

D (60-69): A below-average, less-than-acceptable piece of work evidencing some, if not all of the deficiencies mentioned below:

1. Important data is left out so that the answer is seriously incomplete.
2. There are errors evident in the grammar, spelling, punctuation, or diction which severely detract from the quality of the work.
3. The essay is poorly organized; the logic of its argument is rather hard to follow.

F (0-59): An unacceptable piece of work with some, if not all of the following defects.

1. Much of the pertinent evidence is not presented.
2. There are errors evident in the grammar, spelling, punctuation, or diction which severely detract from the quality of the work.
3. The essay is very poorly organized; the logic of its argument is hard to follow.

In ordinary circumstances, no incompletes will be given, and no make-up examinations will be administered. Any student found guilty of plagiarizing or of cheating on any examination will be given a failing grade in the course and will be reported to the proper authorities. Such behavior can result in dismissal from the College. It is the student's responsibility to know and to abide by both the college's Academic Honor Policy (spelled out in detail in the college catalogue) and the Hillsdale College Honor Code: *A Hillsdale College student is honorable in conduct, honest in word and deed, dutiful in study and service, and respectful of the rights of others. Through education the student rises to self-government.*

Incapacitating illness or serious family problems (such as the sudden death of a close relative) are the only grounds excusing a late paper. I will ask to see written evidence that you were under the care of a physician or the equivalent (such as an obituary). If you cannot complete your work on time, you must contact me **before** the work is due. Leave a note, e-mail me at paul.rahe@hillsdale.edu, or call 607-2391. Unexcused lateness in completing work will result in a penalty of one-half of a letter grade per day.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week I: 15-21 January 2017

- M. **No Class: Registration**
- W. Introductory Meeting:
 Rahe, *Republics Ancient and Modern* Prologue
 Fustel de Coulanges, Introduction, Book First

Week II: 22-28 January 2017

- M. Fustel de Coulanges, Books Second and Third
 Fragments of Xenophanes (Handout)
 Euripides, *The Bacchae*
- W. Austin/Vidal-Naquet Part I, Chapter 1-3; Part II, Chapter 1-3
 Rahe, *Republics Ancient and Modern* Chapters 2-4
- F. Plutarch, *Lycurgus* (in *Lives of the Noble Greeks*)
 Austin/Vidal-Naquet Part I, Chapter 4; Part II, Chapter 4
 James Madison, *The Federalist* No. 10 (PDF file)
 Rahe, *Republics Ancient and Modern* Chapter 5

Week III: 29 January - 4 February 2017

- M: Aristotle, *The Politics* Book II
 Xenophon, *The Politeia of the Spartans* (from J. M. Moore)
 Plato, *The Republic* 543a-553e, tr. Bloom (PDF file)
 Rahe, *Republics Ancient and Modern* Chapter 6
 Fustel de Coulanges, Book Fourth, Chapters I-II, Chapter III, Parts 1-2; Chapters IV-V, Chapter VI, Part 1; Chapter VII, Part 1; Chapters IX-X, Chapter XIII.
- W: Plutarch, *Life of Solon* (in *Lives of the Noble Greeks*)
 Aristotle, *The Constitution of Athens* I-XXVIII (in J. M. Moore)
 Xenophon, *The Constitution of the Athenians* (in J. M. Moore)
- F: Austin/Vidal-Naquet Part I, Chapter 5; Part II, Chapter 5
 Rahe, *Republics Ancient and Modern* Chapter 7
 Fustel de Coulanges, Book Fourth, Chapter III, Part 3; Chapter VI, Part 2; Chapter VII, Part 2; Chapter VIII (the discussion of Athens).

Week IV: 5-11 February 2017

- M: Plato, *The Republic* 553e-569c, tr. Bloom (PDF file)
 Thucydides Book I, para. 68-71, Book II, para. 34-65, Book III, para. 82-83
 (PDF file)
 Fustel de Coulanges, Book Fourth, Chapters XI-XII.
First Paper Due

- W: Rahe, *Republics Ancient and Modern* Chapter 1
 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book X, Chapter 9 (1179a33-1181b15)
Aristotle, The Politics Book I & III

Week V: 12-18 February 2017

- M: No Class
- W: ***First Preliminary Exam***

Week VI: 19-25 February 2017

- M: Plato, The Laws I
- W: Plato, The Laws I
 Alfarabi, Summary of Plato's Laws Introduction, First and Second Treatises

Week VII: 26 February - 4 March 2017

- M: Plato, The Laws II
- W: Plato, The Laws II

Week VIII: 5-11 March 2017

- M: Plato, The Laws III
- W: Plato, The Laws III
 Alfarabi, Summary of Plato's Laws Second and Third Treatises

Week IX: 12-18 March 2017

- Spring Vacation*
 Allan Bloom, The Closing of the American Mind

Week X: 19-25 March 2017

M: Plato, The Laws IV
Second Paper Due

W: Plato, The Laws IV

Week XI: 26 March - 1 April 2017

M: Plato, The Laws V
 Alfarabi, Summary of Plato's Laws Fourth and Fifth Treatises

W: Plato, The Laws VI

Week XII: 2-8 April 2017

M: Plato, The Laws VII

W: Plato, The Laws VII
 Alfarabi, Summary of Plato's Laws Six and Seventh Treatises
Third Paper Due

Week XIII: 9-15 April 2017

M: Plato, Laws VIII

W: Plato, Laws IX
 Alfarabi, Summary of Plato's Laws Eighth and Ninth Treatises, Conclusion

Week XIV: 16-22 April 2017

M: No Class (Easter Monday Travel Day)

W: Plato, The Laws X

Week XV: 23-29 April 2017

M: Plato, The Laws XI

W: Plato, The Laws XII

Week XVI: 30 April - 6 May 2017

M: Plato, Laws XII
Fourth Paper Due

W: **Final Examination: 10 May 2017, 8:00 a.m.**