

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POLITICAL SCIENCE 381H1S LEC0101

TOPICS IN POLITICAL THOUGHT

WINTER TERM 2026

Professor C. Orwin (clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca)

Our theme this year will be the politics of struggle both external and internal and the interaction of foreign and domestic policy. We will explore it through a careful reading of Thucydides' *War of the Athenians and the Peloponnesians*.

A WARNING: CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE GRUELING AS THEY WILL RUN FOR UP TO THREE HOURS. We will follow a mixed format of lecture and discussion. We will take two breaks of ten minutes each.

Recommended Edition (available at the University Textbook Store at the Koffler Centre at College and St. George)

Robert B. Strasser, ed. *The Landmark Thucydides*. New York and Toronto: Simon and Schuster, 1998. *Of the many available editions of Thucydides, this one is outstanding for its maps and appendices. The translation is not the best available, but it is good enough for our purposes. ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK.*

Recommended Secondary Readings (items marked ER are electronic resources).

Ahrens Dorf, Peter J. "Thucydides' realist critique of realism." *Polity* 2.2 (1997): 231-265. (ER)

——— and Thomas L. Pangle. *Justice among nations: on the moral basis of power and peace*. Lawrence: Kansas University Press, 1999. JZ1306.P36 1999X

Balot, Ryan K. *Greed and injustice in classical Athens*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001. B187.A85 B35 2001X

----. *Courage in the Democratic Polis: ideology and critique in classical Athens*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. (ER)

_____, Sara Forsdyke, and Edith Foster, ed. *The Oxford Handbook on Thucydides*. Oxford: Oxford U.P., 2017. (ER) I contributed a chapter "Nature and Human Conduct in Thucydides."

Bolotin, David. "Thucydides." In Leo Strauss and Joseph Cropsey, ed., *History of political philosophy*, 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986: 7-31. JA81.S75 1987 (also available in the 2d. ed.)

Bruell, Christopher. "Thucydides' view of Athenian imperialism." *American Political Science Review* 68.1 (1974): 11-17. (ER)

Burns, Timothy W., ed. *Brill's Companion to Leo Strauss' Writings on Classical Political Thought*. Leiden: Brill, 2015. (ER) **I contributed the chapter on Thucydides.**

Coby, Patrick. "Enlightened self-interest in the Peloponnesian War. Thucydidean speakers on the right of the stronger and interstate peace." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 24.1 (1991):67-90. (ER)

Connor, W.R. *Thucydides*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984. (ER)

Edmunds, Lowell. *Chance and intelligence in Thucydides*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975. DF229.T6 E35 1975

Forde, Steven P. *The ambition to rule: Alcibiades and the politics of imperialism in Thucydides*. Ithaca: Cornell U.P., 1989. DF230.A4 F67 1989 **This book originated in a dissertation that I supervised.**

_____. "Varieties of realism: Thucydides and Machiavelli." *Journal of Politics*, 54 (1992): 372-393. (ER)

_____. "Thucydides on ripeness and conflict resolution." *International Studies Quarterly* 48.1 (2004): 177-96. (ER)

Gomme, A.W. *A historical commentary on Thucydides*. 4 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1956 . PA4461.G6

Grene, David. *Man in his pride. A study in the political philosophy of Thucydides and Plato*. Chicago, U. of C. Press, 1950. JC73.G85

Gustafson, Lowell S., ed. *Thucydides' theory of international relations: a lasting possession*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2000 . JZ1305.T48 2000X

Hanson, Victor Davis. *A war like no other: how the Athenians and Spartans fought the Peloponnesian War*. New York: Random House, 2005. DF229.H36 2005X

Hornblower, Simon. *A commentary on Thucydides*. 3 vols. New York: Oxford U.P., 1991-2008. DF229.T6 H65 1991 ROBA

Jaffe, Seth N. *Thucydides on the Outbreak of War: Character and Context*. Oxford: Oxford U.P., 2017. ER **This book originated in a dissertation that I supervised.**

Johnson, Laurie M. *Thucydides, Hobbes, and the interpretation of realism*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois U.P., 1993. ER

Kagan, Donald. *New History of the Peloponnesian War*. Ithaca: Cornell U.P., 2012. (ER)

———. *Thucydides. The reinvention of history*. New York: Viking, 2009. DF229.T6 K28 2009X

Lendon, J.E. *Song of Wrath: The Peloponnesian War Begins*. New York: Basic Books, 2010. DF229.L46 2010X

Macleod, Colin (C.W.). *Collected Essays*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983 PA3003.M32 1983

Mara, Gerald M. *The civic conversations of Thucydides and Plato: classical political philosophy and the limits of democracy*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2008 JA71.M26415 2008X

Monoson, S. Sara. "Citizen as *erastes*: erotic imagery and the idea of reciprocity in the Periclean Funeral Oration." *Political Theory* 22.2 (1994): 253-76 JA1.A1 P64 (ER)

———. and Michael Loriaux. "The illusion of power and the disruption of moral norms: Thucydides' critique of Periclean policy." *American Political Science Review* 92.2 (1998): 285-97 JA1 .A6 (ER)

Nichols, Mary P. *Thucydides and the pursuit of freedom*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015 (ER)

Orwin, Clifford. *The humanity of Thucydides*, 2nd. ed. rev. Princeton: Princeton U.P., 1997. DF229.T6 O76 1994

———. "Thucydides' contest: Thucydides 1.1-22 in context." *Review of Politics* 51 (1989): 345-64. (ER)

Palmer, Michael. *Love of glory and the common good: aspects of the political thought of Thucydides*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1992. JC71.T482 P35 1992 **This book originated in a senior honors thesis that I supervised.**

Price, Jonathan J. *Thucydides and internal war*. Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2001. (ER)

Radasanu, Andrea, ed. *In Search of Humanity: Essays in Honor of Clifford Orwin*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015. (ER) **This volume contains 4 excellent essays on Thucydides by former students of mine, plus one by Professor Balot.**

Rengakos, Antonios and Antonios Tsakmakis, eds. *Brill's Companion to Thucydides*. Leiden: Brill, 2006. (ER)

Romilly, Jacqueline de. *Thucydides and Athenian imperialism*, tr. Philip Thody. Oxford: Blackwell, 1963. PA4461.R733 1963

Rood, Tim. *Thucydides: narrative and explanation*. Oxford and New York: the Clarendon Press, 1998. (ER)

Rusten, Jeffrey S., ed. *Thucydides. Oxford Readings in Classical Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. DF229.T6 T52 2009X

Stahl, Hans-Peter. *Thucydides: man's place in history*. Swansea: Classical Press of Wales, 2003. (English translation by Stahl himself of an original German version of 1966). DF229.T6 S7213 2003

Strauss, Leo. *The City and Man*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978 [1964] JC73.S8 1978

Thauer, Christian R., and Christian Wendt, ed. *Thucydides and Political Order: Concepts of Order and the History of the Peloponnesian War*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016 (ER)
_____. *Thucydides and Political Order: Lessons of Governance and the History of the Peloponnesian War*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016 (ER)

These two volumes were the first fruits of the new Berlin/Bochum Thucydides Center (founded 2013) of which both Professor Balot and I are senior fellows. Each of us contributed a chapter to the first of the volumes.

Thomas, Charlotte C.S., ed. *Power and the People: Thucydides' History and the American Founding*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2019. **I contributed a chapter "The Impossible Synthesis? A Thucydidean Perspective on Liberal Democracy."**

Welch, David. "Why international relations theorists should stop reading Thucydides." *Review of International Studies* 29.3 (2003): 301-19 D839.B772 (ER)

Course Assignments and Marking Scheme

Two essays of 2750 words each, due February 12 and March 26; a final exam to be held during the exam period. The first assignment will be worth 20% of the final mark, the second one worth 30%, and the final exam 40%, and there will be 10% for participation.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS ELECTRONICALLY, THEREBY SPARING CANADA'S FORESTS.

N.B. No extensions will be granted on written work except for good cause. In keeping with Nietzsche's theory of punishment, however, according to which every crime has its price and punishment was originally nothing more than an exaction of that price (cf. *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay), extensions will be readily available to those willing to purchase them. The price will be 3 points, plus 2 additional points per day beginning with the first, off your mark for that assignment. (If you are one day late you will lose 5 points; two days late, 7; etc.).

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Generative AI

Properly acknowledging the circumstances, ideas, sources, and assistance upon which the work you submit is based is a cornerstone of learning and scholarship. Please make sure you are familiar with the University of Toronto's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behavior at UofT, and you are expected to know the rules. In this course, instances of plagiarism are taken extremely seriously; self-plagiarism (that is, the submission of academic material prepared for other courses) is also prohibited.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments to the University's plagiarism detection tool website for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the University's plagiarism detection tool reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the University's plagiarism detection tool service are described on the company web site.

The submission of any AI-generated material is strictly forbidden, though I acknowledge that, sometimes, resorting to AI may be beneficial for the learning process. If you believe you have a valid reason to use it, you must request and receive my approval in writing prior to submitting work that has relied on generative AI and include a statement describing your use of AI in a note on the assignment you submit. This rule applies to all written work in this course.

Professor Orwin's office hours: Wednesdays from 1:45 to 3:45 in SS 3055.