“I say that the just is nothing other than the advantage of the stronger.” (337c)

Thus begins Thrasydamus’ attack on Socrates in the opening book of Plato’s Republic. However offensive this formulation may strike us, Thrasydamus’ initial definition of justice stands as one of the clearest and least ambiguous in the history of political thinking. How might we define justice otherwise? While we may cherish definitions that appear more benevolent or virtuous, defining justice beyond the most general of ideas is rarely easy. This course pushes beyond the unexamined assumptions we may hold regarding justice by closely examining pivotal works of political theory. The objective of this course is twofold: 1) To introduce students to texts of central significance for the discipline; 2) To challenge students to move beyond the study of texts to their own active efforts to define justice.

Hannah Arendt, Eichmann in Jerusalem (Penguin Books)
Plato, The Republic, translated by Allan Bloom (Basic Books)
Plato, Apology, Crito, and Phaedo in Trial and Death of Socrates (Hackett Publishing)

All books are available for purchase at Moravian College Bookstore.
Please do not purchase other translations.
Reading and Discussing Texts

Learning how to use textual evidence is one of the top priorities of this course. We cannot work without the text. It is an explicit requirement that you bring your impulsively highlighted and passionately marked up books or articles to every meeting. If you prefer not to write in books, you should take detailed notes on the text, including the page numbers of critical passages. The highest form of participation is to take the voice of the author seriously, to be able to reconstruct and reconsider the argument, and to direct others to critical passages. Unsupported answers will be less valued than those that draw the discussion back into the text.

Monday, January 15
Wednesday, January 17

Monday, January 22
Wednesday, January 24

Monday, January 29
Wednesday, January 31

Monday, February 5
Wednesday, February 7

Monday, February 12
Wednesday, February 14

Monday, February 19
Wednesday, February 21

Sat, March 3 - Mon, March 12

Monday, March 12
Wednesday, March 14  
Book VII

Monday, March 19  
Book VIII

Wednesday, March 21  
Book IX, discussion of mid-term examinations

Thursday, April 22  
Instructions for paper #2 via e-mail

Monday, March 26  
7 p.m. film: *Plato's Republic* (1996)

Wednesday, March 28  
Book X

Monday, April 2  
Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, chapters I and II

Wednesday, April 4  
*Eichmann*, chapters III and IV

Thursday, April 5  
Paper #2 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.

Friday, April 6 – Monday, April 9  
Easter Recess

Wednesday, April 11  
7 p.m. film: *Witness to the Holocaust – The Trial of Adolf Eichmann* (1987)

Monday, April 16  
*Eichmann*, chapters VII and VIII

Wednesday, April 18  
*Eichmann*, chapter XV, Epilogue, and Postscript

Monday, April 23  
Opening of first-day essays and closing discussion

Wednesday, April 25  
Discussion of paper #2, review for final examination (date and time TBA)

Paper 1  
2/2 at 4 p.m.  
Five pages  
15%

Midterm  
2/19  
In-class examination  
20%

Paper 2  
4/5  
Six pages  
20%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>TBA</th>
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<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engagement: participation and presentation of the text</td>
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<td>25%</td>
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**Engagement**

**A** - Critical, innovative and careful readings; substantial and consistent notes or written preparations for discussion; frequent and illuminating text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support and promotion of positive discussion dynamics.

**B** - Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparations for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions, engagement of the arguments of others.

**C** - Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparations for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.

**D** - Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparations for discussion; mostly passive presence.

**F** - Persistent vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

**Nota bene:** You cannot pass this course without completing all required elements.

**General Housekeeping**

1) I invite you to visit my office hours. Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. You can also contact me by e-mail at haddad@moravian.edu.

2) We will discuss all assignments two weeks in advance of a given due date. I am happy to help you with outlines.

3) I recommend seeking help at the Writing Center. Make an appointment and request feedback on the clarity of your argument and language.

4) Expect to work six hours on average outside of class per week. Some weeks the reading load will be lighter, some weeks it will be considerably heavier.

5) Students with a documented learning disability who desire accommodations for this course must first visit the Office of Learning Services (ext. 1510) and follow college procedures on receiving accommodations.

6) I do not accept late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment.

7) Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment in this class. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm

8) Do not miss class. Undocumented absences beyond the first will harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% per absence.

9) No food in the classroom, please. *And, turn your cell phone off before class.*