Political Science 200: Survey of Political Theory (Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:45)

The tasks of political theory are to understand, and search for answers to, fundamental questions of political life: How should we live, as individuals and as a society? What is justice, and what does it require of us? What is the best form of government? In lecture we will survey the most important thinkers of Western civilization who have tried to answer those questions, but we will focus on four of them.

Required books ordered for purchase:

Be sure to obtain those editions, either in print or as e-book, except that the second edition of Bloom’s translation of *The Republic of Plato* is acceptable.

Political Science 409L: Medieval Political Theory (Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30-12:45)

In this course we will explore leading medieval thinkers from the Islamic, Jewish, and Christian traditions. Their thoughts and disagreements may help us with our thoughts and disagreements concerning the following questions: What is the proper relation between religion and politics? What is the proper relation between religious and political institutions? We will give particular attention to Thomas Aquinas, one of the most important proponents of the doctrine of natural law as the proper basis of human law.

Required books ordered for purchase (be sure to obtain these editions, either in print or as e-book):

Additional readings will come from the Koran and the Bible.

Each of these courses counts toward the Great Works Academic Certificate. See Professor Fott for more information.