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**Save Ancient Studies Alliance**

**January 2022 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group**

## *Politics Past and Present: The (Non)Differences*



**Dr Georgina Longley, here: Call me George!**

**Studied:** St. Hilda's and Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford (BA, MSt, PhD).

**Speciality:** Greek and Roman historiography, political theory, and political history.

**Particular fondness for:** Polybius, first and foremost. Then, Thucydides, Cicero, Socrates, Aristophanes, Ovid, and Virgil.

**Find me at:**

<https://www.bloggusclassicus.com>

<https://www.campusclassicus.com>

**Instagram :** <https://www.instagram.com/drgeorge216/>

(Classics memes and Classical pictionaries!)

**Tumblr:** Classical Shorts.

<https://www.tumblr.com/dashboard>

## **Come and find out about and compare Politics Past and Present!**

**When?** 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
AI sessions - 2pm EST/7pm GMT

**Where?** At SASA via Zoom!

**How many?** Between 15-20 (but happy to accommodate more)

### **Why this topic?**

'Under every stone you will find a politician?'

Is this quotation referring to ancient or modern politics?

It doesn't matter. It could refer to either.

We seem to have come a long way since fifth-century Athens and Republican Rome. Suffrage and citizenship are happily much more inclusive. But at its core is politics, both with a small and large 'P' any different. Horizons might have widened, but has the game itself really changed all that much? Come and explore this question! I also hope that this group will encourage us to reassess what we mean by politics, considering the origins of our own terms. I very much hope participants will enjoy exploring these themes and come away with not only an enriched understanding of the influence of ancient political practice and thought on our own times, but also of ourselves as political or social animals. Polybius, Thucydides, will all be making guest appearances.

## **Schedule and Texts**

I will publish a booklet for each session with passages to focus on. I include links to the texts should you wish to explore further.

### **Week 1 – Demos, Democracy, and Demagogues (Fifth- and Fourth- Century Athens)**

#### **Thucydides**

##### ***History of the Peloponnesian War***

###### **Book 2:**

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.2.second.html>

###### **Book 3:**

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.3.third.html>

###### **Book 6, 1-31:**

<http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.6.sixth.html>

#### **Xenophon**

##### ***Hellenica, 1.7:***

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0206%3Abook%3D1%3Achapter%3D7%3Asection%3D1>

#### **Isocrates**

##### ***Panegyricus:***

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0144%3Aspeech%3D4>

##### ***Panathenaicus:***

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0144%3Aspeech%3D12>

### **Week 2 – The Politics of Power (The Roman Republic and the Rise of Empire)**

**Polybius – especially books 1, 2, 6, 36**

<https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Polybius/home.html>

**Cicero**

*De Republica*: <http://www.attalus.org/info/republic.html>

**Week 3 – All downhill to One-man-rule and all downhill from there!**

**(The decline of the Republic, and the birth and decline of the Principate)**

**Cicero**

*Pro Caelio*: <http://www.hoocher.com/procaeliotranslation.htm>

*Letter to Atticus, IV.5:*

[https://www.gutenberg.org/files/21200/21200-h/21200-h.htm#CVII\\_A\\_IV\\_5](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/21200/21200-h/21200-h.htm#CVII_A_IV_5)

**Sallust**

*Preface of War with Catiline:*

[https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum\\_Catilinae\\*.html](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum_Catilinae*.html)

***The War with Jugurtha:***

[https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum\\_Jugurthinum/1\\*.html](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum_Jugurthinum/1*.html)

[https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum\\_Jugurthinum/2\\*.html](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum_Jugurthinum/2*.html)

[https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum\\_Jugurthinum/3\\*.html](https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Sallust/Bellum_Jugurthinum/3*.html)

**Tacitus**

***Agricola*, sections 1-3**

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0081>

***Annales*, Books I and IV**

<https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Tacitus/home.html>