

Political Philosophy | PIU33073

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 lectures; no tutorials
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Samantha Fazekas
Contact Email	sfazekas@tcd.ie

Topic: Friendship & Politics

Module Outline:

This module will examine the relationship between friendship and politics. We will begin by defining various types of friendships (e.g., personal, moral, and political) and determine their relationship to politics. We will see that political friendship used to play a vital role in ancient Greek political life. Whereas in modernity, friendship becomes a private and intimate phenomenon. In light of this, we will question whether and how political friendship can be revived in contemporary political philosophy. To this end, we will focus on the following questions: Can political friendships form the basis of political communities, states/countries, and political unions (e.g., EU, UN, national/international federations and confederations)? Can citizens be considered “friends” with each other? Can all states/countries be “friends” with each other? Are there limits to political friendship (e.g., Brexit, war, and human rights violations)?

Assessment: 1 Exam (mid-term) 50% **AND** 1 Essay (end of module) 50%

Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term. Our central texts will be **excerpts** from the following:

- Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. D.P. Chase, introduction by J.A. Smith (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2021).
- Cicero, *Laelius De Amicitia (Laelius On Friendship)*, trans. Evelyn S. Shuckburgh, ed. Rhonda L. Kelley (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2013).
- Michel de Montaigne, “Of Friendship,” *The Essays of Montaigne*, trans. Charles Cotton (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2023).
- Francis Bacon, “Of Friendship,” *The Essays or Councils, Civil and Moral, of Francis Bacon Ld. Verulam Viscount St. Albans* (Project Gutenberg E-Book: 2013).
- Hannah Arendt, “Philosophy and Politics,” *Social Research* Vol. 57, No. 1 (Spring 1990): 73-103.