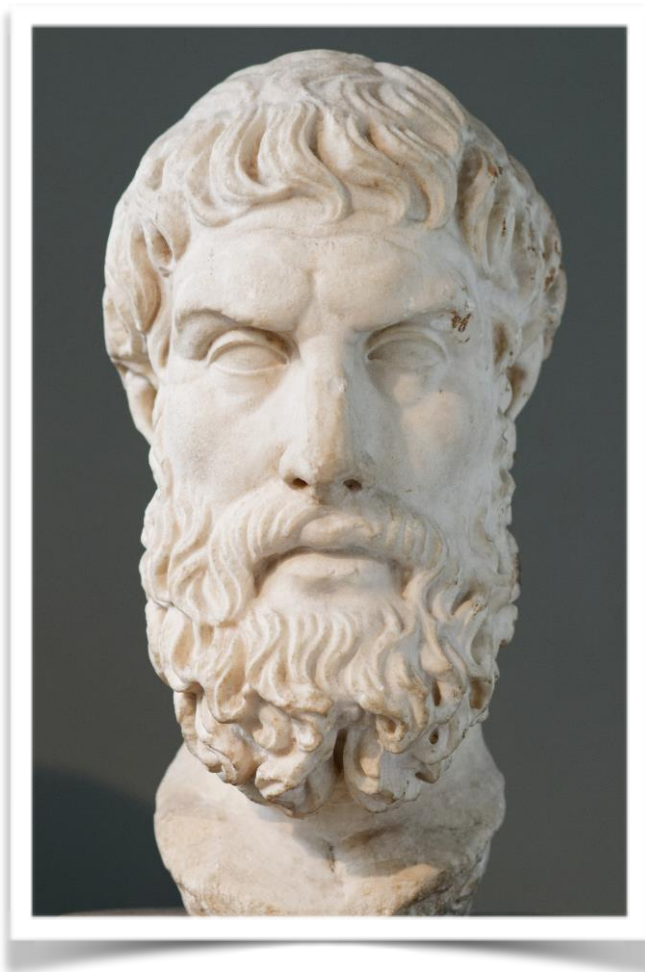


**Political Animals:
How to take over the world**
Professor: Edward Bell, levels B2 –C2

Learning Goals

This class will look at the main philosophical ideas that have shaped the way that we govern and are governed. Starting with the Pre-Socratic Greek thinkers, through Latin Stoics and Machiavelli's *Realpolitik* and ending up with Keynes and Co., we will look at how societies have changed according to thought, and vice versa.



The goal of the course is for students to be able to understand modern political discourse with a deeper awareness of what has gone on in the past and to be able to engage in discussion on the subject. Why did Aristotle say that Man a political animal? Is Machiavelli virtuous or pure evil? Was Winston Churchill right in saying democracy is the worst form of government?

Learning Objectives

We will use primary and secondary written sources, as well as extracts from lectures on each topic that we cover. Students will learn to read texts, analyse their meanings and extract the relevant information for informed discussion. They will also take part in class discussions, where an emphasis on listening and understanding others' ideas is favoured over getting your own opinion across. Stylistic language and vocabulary is taught and encouraged.

Course Expectations

Throughout the course, there will be vocabulary and knowledge tests based on the information given in class. You will be

expected to be familiar with the general trends of philosophy as well as *one particular author* and/or *school*: this will be assessed in an end of term project in the form of an essay, a presentation or other format (to be agreed on with the teacher).

Autonomy project

One of the class requirements will be a research project where students choose a philosopher, a school, a period...to explore its dominant key ideas and political thought.

Grading

The grade is based on vocabulary/knowledge tests and class participation¹ (50%) and a final project and presentation (50%).

¹The average mark for tests throughout the semester and a discretionary mark for engagement in class.