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“A Collaborative Project on Aristotle’s *Constitution of Athens* in a Greek History Course”

CAMWS 2015 (Boulder)

Style: It was agreed by members of the class to refer to the text in all papers as AP (for *Athenaion Politeia*).

Paper topics used in Fall 2014: (Topics were composed as questions.)

1. Who was the author of the *Athenaion Politeia*?
2. When was the *AP* composed?
3. What were Aristotle’s sources for the *AP*?
4. When did scholars discover the *AP*, and who published translations of the text?
5. How is Draco relevant to the beginnings of democracy?
6. What was the role of Solon in the growth of democracy?
7. What did Pisistratus contribute to the growth of democracy in Athens?
8. How was democracy set up under Cleisthenes?
9. What was the role of the Areopagus in the development of democracy?
10. How did the government of Athens change after the end of the Peloponnesian War?
11. What is the role of the administrative branches of Athenian democracy?
12. What was the nature of books and writing in antiquity?
13. Did women have a role in the Aristotle’s picture of Athenian democracy?
14. What is Aristotle’s definition of democracy (in the *AP* and in his other works)?
15. What is Aristotle’s definition of tyranny (in the *AP* and in his other works)?
16. How is the *AP* different from Pseudo-Xenophon’s *Constitution of the Athenians*?
17. What is the role of Solon’s poetry in the *AP*?
18. Why are Harmodius and Aristogeiton given such prominence in the *AP* and in Greek culture?

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Other translations

Aristotle. *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*. Edited by Stephen Everson. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Cambridge University Press, 1996. ISBN 978-0521484008.

Aristotle. *The Athenian Constitution*. Edited and translated by P.J. Rhodes. Penguin Classics, 1984. ISBN  978-0140444315.

Very Select Bibliography

Keaney, J. J. “The Date of Aristotle’s *Athenaion Politeia*.” *Historia* 19 (1970) 326-336.

Keaney, J. J. “The Structure of Aristotle’s *Athenaion Politeia*.” *HSCP* 67 (1963) 115-146.

Kenyon, Frederic G. *Books and Readers in Ancient Greece and Rome*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1932.

Marr, J. L. and P. J. Rhodes, trans. *The “Old Oligarch”: The Constitution of the Athenians Attributed to Xenophon.* Oxford: Aris and Phillips, 2008.

Von Fritz, Kurt and Ernst Kapp, ed. and trans. *Aristotle’s Constitution of Athens and Related Texts.* New York: Hafner Press, 1974.