

Second Session.

Tuesday, October 15.

Politics and Truth.

Reading: Leo Strauss, “What is Political Philosophy?” The Journal of Politics, vol. 19, no. 3, 1957, 343-355.

Suggested reading: 356-368 of the same text.

GUIDANCE QUESTIONS

According to Leo Strauss:

1. Why is it important to understand that politics is a practical reality made up of concrete human actions, and not just an object of scientific study?
2. Why is good the supreme reference that should guide all political action?
3. Why should the guide of political action not be power, wealth or glory?
4. Why is it important to deideologize political philosophy?
5. Why can the ideological labels of liberal, progressive or conservative limit the human capacity to do good?
6. Why is it convenient for human action to be led by certain knowledge and not by mere subjective opinions?
7. Is it possible to achieve a just political order from relativistic positions or ethical neutrality?
8. Can democracy avoid the tyranny of the majority if it is accepted that politics must be ethically neutral?