

## PHILOSOPHY 100, FALL 2015

Lectures: Tu & Th 5:00-6:20 pm, WLH 2207

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Office Hours: Friday 2:00-4:00 and by appointment

TEXTS: Plato: *Meno*, *Phaedo*, *Republic*, *Timaeus*.

Readings:

1. Plato's predecessors and their influence on him. (Presocratic views on what is most real, the Heraclitean vs. the Parmenidean view on the nature of what is; senses vs. thought or reason, Parmenidean conception of knowledge; the various conceptions of the soul—materialist vs. non-materialist, the view of Pythagoras; the practices and views of the Sophists; Socratic practice and the elenchus, Socratic definitions and Forms, Socratic views on the nature of virtue and moral psychology.)
2. Read the *Meno*. (Socratic Definition and its object; early Theory of Forms; definitions of virtue; Theory of Recollection; the distinction between Knowledge and Belief; the Socratic position on whether or not virtue can be taught.)
  - a. R. Robinson, "Socratic Definition."
  - b. R. E. Allen, "Plato's Earlier Theory of Forms."
3. Read the *Phaedo*. (The nature of the philosopher and of philosophy; the faculty of knowledge, its activity, and its objects; the arguments for the immortality of the soul—the argument from Opposites, from Recollection, from Affinity of Soul to the Forms, from Causes; the argument from harmony against Immortality; the imperfection of the sensible world.)
  - a. H.F. Cherniss, "The Philosophical Economy of the Theory of Ideas."
  - b. A. Nehamas, "Plato on the Imperfection of the Sensible World."
4. *Republic* :
  - (i). Read Books I and II. (The first attempts to define justice—the views of Cephalus and Polemarchus; the argument and account of justice by Thrasymachus; the argument from Function; Glaukon's & Adeimantus challenge—the conventionality and contractarian conception of justice; Socrates shift to a search for the nature of social/political justice; the first city [the "city of the swine"] as the healthy city, the luxurious city, the necessity of Guardians; the arguments for division of labor and distribution of tasks on the basis of natural talents; education of Guardians.)

(ii) Read Books III and IV. (The education of the Guardians, the “myth” of the metals, selection of Rulers, the aim of the polis with respect to happiness, the virtues of the city, the division of the soul, and the virtues of the individual).

- a. H. Lorenz, “The Analysis of the Soul in Plato’s *Republic*.”
- b. D. Sachs, “A Fallacy in Plato’s *Republic*.”

(iii) Read Books V and VI. (Equality in education, women and equality; community of spouses and children among the Guardians, the unity of the city; the possibility of the ideal city, rulers and philosophy, philosophers and the Forms, philosophers and their suitability to rule, the Form of the Good, the analogies of Sun and Line.)

- a. G. Vlastos, “Was Plato a Feminist?”
- b. J. Annas, “Understanding and the Good: Sun, Line, and Cave.”
- c. M. L. Gill, “Problems for Forms.”
- d. G. Santas, “Two Theories of Good in Plato’s *Republic*.”

(iv) Read Books VII and VIII. (The education of philosopher kings, the decline of the ideal city and types of inferior rule or constitutions.)

C. C. W. Taylor, “Plato’s Totalitarianism.”

(v) Read Books IX and X. (The comparison of just and unjust lives, three arguments that the just are happier than the unjust, the nature of pleasures.)

N. O. Dahl, “Plato’s Defence of Justice.”

5. Read *Timaeus* (read from 19a-69a). (Restatement of political views, Plato’s theodicy, the making of the World Soul, the doctrine of the elements, matter and sensible objects.)

D. Keyt, “The Mad Craftsman of the *Timaeus*.”

Writing requirements: The writing requirements for the course will consist of the following: (a) Two papers of about 8-10 pages each. The first will be due in class on Thursday of the sixth week and the second on the date the Final Exam for the class has been scheduled by the Registrar; each paper will worth 45% of your Grade. Topics for the papers will be distributed two weeks in advance of the date they are due. (b) Three in-class quizzes; in each quiz, you will be asked to give a brief answer (about half a page) to a question from the readings/lectures. The three quizzes together will worth 10% of your Grade.