

PHILOSOPHY 101: Aristotle
UCSD Winter 2011 MWF 2-2:50pm PETER 104

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Professor Monte Johnson

Office: HSS 7058 monte@ucsd.edu

Open office hours: Mondays 4-5pm; Wednesdays 3-4pm

Description: This course introduces the philosophy of Aristotle through close reading and critical examination of the *Nicomachean Ethics* in its entirety. Our discussions will focus on the interpretation of the work as a whole and its place in Aristotle's division of the sciences. We will use the examination of Aristotle's arguments as an opportunity to investigate such issues as: the method and purpose of ethical inquiry; the relationship between ethics and related disciplines like economics, politics, psychology, and education; teleological, eudaimonistic, and naturalistic approaches to ethics; intrinsic versus instrumental value; moral and intellectual virtue; justice; deliberation, choice, and voluntary action; weakness of will, vice, injustice, and evil; and the importance of leisure and pleasure. **Objectives:** learn to interpret and criticize ancient philosophical texts; differentiate ancient and modern perspectives on ethics; write and speak philosophical arguments extemporaneously; articulate philosophical positions concisely.

Required Texts:

1. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated by R. Crisp. Cambridge, 2000. Available at The University Book Store in the Price Center.
2. Aristotle's *Protrepticus*: a provisional reconstruction. Edited and translated by D. S. Hutchinson and M. R. Johnson. Available online at: www.protreptic.info.

Components of Evaluation:

1. *Participation* (100 points): The class is discussion-based: regular attendance, preparation, and contribution in class or online is required. You must regularly visit the WebCT site set up for the course—important announcements may be made there. You can get participation credit by asking questions or making comments in class or online.
2. *Scribe assignment* (100 points). A group assignment described on a separate handout.
4. *Writing exercises* (300 points). Three one-page writing exercises due Jan. 14, Feb. 18, and March 11. No late or electronic papers accepted.
5. *Midterm examination* (200 points): Open-book, in-class essay exam on Feb. 4.
6. *Final examination* (300 points): Open-book, cumulative essay exam scheduled for March 14, 3-6 p.m.

(1000 point scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-900 = B; 700-800 = C; 600-700 = D; <600 = F; +/- scores at discretion of the Professor)

Date (2010)	Discussion Topic and Reading Assignments.
M Jan. 3	Greetings, requirements, introduction to Aristotle.
W Jan. 5	Life as an art or skill. <i>EN I.1-6</i> .
F Jan. 7	Conditions of success and popular ideas about happiness. <i>EN I.7-12</i> .
M Jan. 10	Moral psychology. <i>EN I.13</i> .
W Jan. 12	Moral virtue. <i>EN II.1-9</i> .
F Jan. 14	Voluntary action, deliberation and choice. <i>EN III.1-5</i> . Writing assignment 1 due.
M Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (no class).
W Jan. 19	Courage. <i>EN III.6-9</i> .
F Jan. 21	Temperance. <i>EN III.10-12</i> .
M Jan. 24	Money and honors. <i>EN IV.1-4</i> .
W Jan. 26	Anger, social virtues, and shame. <i>EN IV.5-9</i> .
F Jan. 28	Kinds of justice. <i>EN V.1-7</i> .
M Jan. 31	Justice as a virtue. <i>EN V.8-11</i> .
W Feb. 2	Review and discussion.
F Feb. 4	Midterm Examination.
M Feb. 7	Intellectual virtue. <i>EN VI.1-2</i> .
W Feb. 9	Art, science, reason, intelligence and wisdom. <i>EN VI.3-8</i> .
F Feb. 11	Practical and theoretical wisdom. <i>EN VI.9-12</i> .
M Feb. 14	Weakness of will. <i>EN VII.1-10</i> .
W Feb. 16	Critique of pleasure. <i>EN VII.11-14</i> .
F Feb. 18	Friendship. <i>EN VII.1-6</i> Writing assignment 2 due.
M Feb. 21	President's Day Holiday (no class).
W Feb. 23	Friendship and justice. <i>EN VIII.7-13</i> .
F Feb. 25	Review and discussion.
M Feb. 28	Problems of friendship. <i>EN IX.1-8</i> .
W Mar. 2	The need for friendship. <i>EN IX.9-12</i> .
F Mar. 4	Analysis of Pleasure. <i>EN X.1-5</i> .
M Mar. 7	Ultimate success. <i>EN X.6-8</i> .
W Mar. 9	Ethics and politics. <i>EN X.9</i> .
F Mar. 11	Review and discussion. Writing assignment 3 due.
M Mar. 14 3-6pm	Final Exam.

Scribe Assignment

1. The scribe assignment is a group project in which students will collaborate to produce a complete set of “minutes” of our meetings published on the course’s homepage.
 2. Three “scribes” will volunteer or be assigned to take notes for each class. The rest of the class is encouraged not to take notes, but rather to concentrate on the lecture, ask questions, and participate in the discussion.
 3. The students assigned to take notes will meet sometime after the class as a group and compose a special set of “minutes” of the class. They should do this together, in person, and not by dividing up the lecture and separately composing different sections of the minutes. You must be prepared to meet in person several times with the other scribe(s).
 4. The minutes should not be a verbatim version of the lecture. Rather, the scribes should write out, in complete English sentences (not note form, and without using mathematical symbols in lieu of words), a narrative of the lecture and discussion. They should fill in any references to texts, providing complete citations.
 5. The minutes should be edited down so that they can be read aloud by the scribes, taking turns, within 8 minutes. The scribes should practice and rehearse their performance to make sure it fits in this time and sounds good.
 6. Each scribe should also compose at least one original question about the lecture for further clarification or reflection.
 7. An electronic copy of the minutes must be sent to monte@ucsd.edu by 10am before the next class meeting. The minutes will then be read out at the beginning of the same class by the scribes. A short discussion of one or more of the scribes’ original questions may follow.
 8. I will then return to the scribes a hand-edited copy of the minutes. The scribes will then meet again as a group to input the corrections into the electronic file. Finally they must submit that electronic file to me not later than one week from the original lecture, one hour before class.
 9. Scribal assignments will be made by me. The assignment is worth 100 total points of your final grade. You must notify me of any day on which you are not capable of attending. You may trade dates, but it will not be possible to “make up” an assignment if it is missed. If you fail to contact your group on the day of the lecture that you are responsible to be a scribe for, you will receive 0/100 points for the assignment.
 10. The final electronic version will also be posted to the course website for the benefit of all the students in the class, and will be made publically available.
9. Sample Production Schedule:

1. Take scribe notes in class (e.g. on January 3); meet with other scribes and compose minutes. Email a copy to monte@ucsd.edu.
2. Read minutes aloud in next class (e.g. on January 5).
4. Revise minutes based on Professor's comments; send electronic copy to professor by following class (e.g. January 7)
5. Electronic copy posted to Web Site (e.g. on January 10)

10. Format: The font should be Times New Roman 12 point. No extra spaces between paragraphs. Do not right justify (aligning the text). Underline all foreign expressions and titles. Put scribe names in alphabetical order. The heading should be centered in the body following this example:

UCSD Winter 2011
Philosophy 101: Aristotle
Professor Monte Johnson
Scribes: Phillip Beabout, Matt Uhlhorn, and Adam Yakira

Lecture on 2010 January 3
Introduction to Aristotle

Aristotle was born in 384 B.C. in Stagira...

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11. Please send the file as a .doc file (not .docx, .pdf, etc.)
 12. Name the file according to the following example: 2011i3 Aristotle.doc. Replace the Roman numeral and following Arabic number by the appropriate date of the lecture on which the minutes are based; e.g. 2011i3 = 2011 January 3; 2011ii7 = 2011 February 7; 2011iii7 = 2011 March 7.
 13. The final electronic version will then be graded on the following criteria: (1) accuracy; (2) completeness; (3) concision (1000-1500 words); (4) grammatical and typographical correctness, especially with reference to textual citations; (5) elegance; and (6) insight and import of the original questions.
 14. Common deductions include: Wrong font, right-justified, improper format or filename **-10 points**; Misspellings or reference and citation problems **-25 points**; lack of original questions **-10 points / missing question**; Late **-20 points / day**.

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UCSD 2010 Winter

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

* = Field that must be filled out to receive credit in the class

Name (as you wish to be addressed):

*Name (as it appears in University Records):

*UCSD Email address:

*UCSD Major:

*UCSD Year of expected graduation:

*UCSD College:

Previous courses taken from me:

Previous philosophy courses taken (name of course and college if other than UCSD; **use names not codes**):

Foreign languages you are capable of speaking or writing, or are studying:

Requested date for scribe assignment (optional):

Special needs (including any days on which you cannot be present in class):