

## PHILOSOPHY 101: ARISTOTLE

University of California, San Diego 2012 Winter Quarter  
PETER 102 MWF 12-1250pm

Professor Monte Johnson / [monte@ucsd.edu](mailto:monte@ucsd.edu)  
HSS 7058 Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-5pm

**Description:** This course introduces the philosophy of Aristotle through a close reading and critical examination of two major works of Aristotle's practical philosophy in their entirety. Our discussions will focus on the interpretation of the works as a whole and their place in Aristotle's division of the sciences. In the first half of the course will read a new translation of Aristotle's *Eudemian Ethics* in order 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.

In the second part of the course, we will read a translation of Aristotle's *Politics* as a basis for a discussion of: the prehistory and ontology of political society; the justification of slavery and subjugation of other living things including women and children; the history and classification of political constitutions and utopian speculations; the theory of political instability and revolution; the relation of economic class to political change; and the role of education in the maintenance of political stability.

**Objectives:** Learn to interpret, criticize, and cite ancient philosophical texts (in English translation), and to differentiate and compare ancient with modern perspectives on ethics and politics; develop skills to better write and speak philosophical, ethical, and political arguments extemporaneously, and to articulate philosophical positions precisely, concisely, and incisively.

### Required Texts:

1. Aristotle, *Eudemian Ethics*, tr. A. Kenny. Oxford 2011.
2. Aristotle, *The Politics* (tr. B. Jowett) and *The Constitution of Athens* (tr. J. M. Moore). Cambridge 1996.

**Evaluation:** (1000 pt. scale: 900-1000 = A; 800-900 = B; 700-800 = C; 600-700 = D; <600 = F)

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 course web site at [ted.ucsd.edu](http://ted.ucsd.edu), where announcements for the course are made. Failure to hand in a student information form by Jan. 13 will result in an automatic -10 participation points.
2. *Scribe assignment* (100 points). A group assignment with an in-class speaking component. (See separate handout for details.)
4. *Writing assignments* (400 points). Four writing assignments due Jan. 20, Feb. 3, and March 2, and March 16. No late or electronic papers accepted. (See separate handout for details.)
5. *Midterm examination* (100 points): Open-book, in-class essay exam on Feb. 17.
6. *Final examination* (300 points): Open-book, cumulative essay exam on Wednesday, March 21 11:30am-2:30pm.

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### Schedule of Readings, Examinations, and Deadlines:

Note that it is not possible to reschedule any of the examinations or deadlines; all credit for missed examinations will be lost; missing the final exam will result in an automatic F for the course.

2012 January 9. Greetings and Introduction.

i11. Introduction to the works of Aristotle and the correct method of citing them.

i13. Overview of the works of Practical Philosophy. **Student information form due.**

2012i16. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—no class.

i18. *Eudemian Ethics* I.

i20. *Eudemian Ethics* I. **Assignment 1 due.**

i23. *Eudemian Ethics* II.

i25. *Eudemian Ethics* II.

i27. *Eudemian Ethics* III.

i30. *Eudemian Ethics* III.

February 1. *Eudemian Ethics* IV.

ii3. *Eudemian Ethics* IV. **Assignment 2 due.**

ii6. *Eudemian Ethics* V.

ii8. *Eudemian Ethics* VI.

ii10. *Eudemian Ethics* VII.

ii13. *Eudemian Ethics* VIII.

ii15. Review and Discussion.

ii17. **Midterm Examination.**

2012ii20. President's Day Holiday—no class.

ii22. *Politics* I.

ii24. *Politics* I.

ii27. *Politics* II.

ii29. *Politics* III.

March 2. *Politics* III. **Assignment 3 due.**

iii5. *Politics* IV.

iii7. *Politics* V.

iii9. *Politics* VI.

iii12. *Politics* VII.

iii14. *Politics* VIII.

iii16. Review and Discussion. **Assignment 4 due.**

2012iii21 (W) 11:30am-2:30pm. **Final Examination.**