

PHILOSOPHY 100, FALL 2014

MW 5:00-6:20 pm, PETER 102

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Office Hours: Tue. & Th. 4:00-5:00 and by appointment

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

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 and 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 challenge—the conventionality of justice and the 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 *Statesman*. (The first definition of the statesman, knowledge and ruling; the method of Division; the myth of the different ages of the universe and the corresponding types of rule; the analogy with weaving and the final definition of the statesman; types of constitution.)

The TA for the class is Kyle Sereda (ksereda@ucsd.edu); office: HSS 8089; office hours: M. 3:00-4:50.

Written requirements: The written requirements for the course will consist of two papers. The first will be due in class on Wednesday of the sixth week and the second on the date the Final Exam for the class has been scheduled by the Registrar. Each paper should be about 10 pages long.