

UCSD WINTER 2014
PHILOSOPHY 101: ARISTOTLE

WLH 2205
MW 6:00pm-7:20pm
ted.ucsd.edu

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HSS 7058 Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course offers a broad survey of the philosophy of Aristotle (384-322 BC). Beginning with an overview of his logic, scientific method, and cognitive science, we will proceed to examine the principles of his natural philosophy, including, cosmology, biology, physiology, and psychology, as well as examples of his explanations of such phenomena as meteorological halos, dreaming, and animal motion. We will also examine major issues of his “philosophy of human nature”, including the principles of political science and ethics, and consider his theories of the virtues and kinds of government, with special attention to his moral-psychological accounts of anger, education, and poetic creativity.

Required Text

The Basic Works of Aristotle, edited by R. McKeon (New York: Modern Library, 2001)
ISBN-10: 0375757996 (available at UCSD bookstore).

Objectives

- Learn to cite, interpret, and criticize the primary works of Aristotle in English translation both in discussion and in writing.
- Survey major topics and problems in the philosophy of Aristotle, including his logic, physics, and ethics.
- Devise and execute an original research project on Aristotle using both primary and secondary sources.
- Participate in active professional research in the field of Aristotle Studies.
- Appreciate the seminal influence of Aristotle on the subsequent development of Western philosophy and science and learn to relate Aristotle to current or perennial problems in the field of philosophy.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on a 1000 point scale (A>900; B>800; C>700; D>600; F<600) of points earned in the following activities:

1. **attendance and participation** in discussion either in-class or online (100 points);
2. **the scribe assignment**, consisting of two written reports with an oral presentation before the class done in conjunction with another student (200 points) <see instructions>;
3. **the scholar assignment**, an annotated bibliography (100 points) <see instructions>;
4. **the research assignment** in several drafts (400 points) <see instructions>;
5. **critical-editorial comments** on a rough draft of a peer’s research paper (100 points);
6. **a brief presentation** before the class of your research, along with a written abstract and handout (100 points).

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2014 i 6 **Aristotle's Life, Works, and Division of Philosophy**

Required Reading: Handouts: *Biographical Timeline*; *How to Cite the Aristotle Corpus* (for which see the abbreviations used on this page); *Ancient Lists of Aristotle's Writings*; *Basic Aristotle Bibliography*

Recommended Reading: Basic Works, pp.v-xxi, *Metaph.* 6.1

i 8 **Language, Cognition, Categories, and Entities**

Required Reading: *Cat.* 4-5, *Int.* 1-9

Close Reading: "Words, Thoughts, and Things" (*Int.* 1, 16a3-8)

Recommended Reading: *Cat.* 1-3, 6-15, *Int.* 10-15, *Metaph.* 5.1-30

i 13 **Experience, Art, and Science**

Required Reading: *APo.* 2.19; *Metaph.* 1.1-2; *Phys.* 1.1

Close Reading: "The Train of Cognition" (*Metaph.* 1.1, 980a1-981a4)

Recommended Reading: *EN* 6.1-13

i 15 **Logic and Dialectic**

Required Reading: *APr.* 1.1, 1.4, 1.30; *Top.* 1.1,

Close Reading: "Demonstrative and Dialectical Syllogisms" (*APr.* 1.1, 24a288-b22)

Recommended Reading: *SE* 1, 34

***Due: hard copy of Scholar Assignment!**

i 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (no class)

i 22 **Scientific Explanation**

Required Reading: *APo.* 1.1-3, 2.11

Close Reading: "Conditions of Scientific Knowledge" (*APo.* 2.2, 71b16-24)

Recommended Reading: *APo.* 1.4-8, 2.1-10, 2.12-18

i 27 **Natural Science**

Required Reading: *Phys.* 1.1, 2.1, *Cael.* 1.1, *GC* 1.1, *Meteor.* 1.1

Close Reading: "A Syllabus of Natural Science" (*Meteor.* 1.1, 338a20-339a10)

***Due: (1) electronic copy of scholar assignment; (2) research Paper Proposal!**

i 29 **An Explanation of the Rainbow**

Required Reading: *APo.* 1.9-13, *Phys.* 2.2, *Meteor.* 3.1-5

Close Reading: "Explanation of the Halo" (*Meteor.* 3.2-3), see: Johnson 2009, "The Aristotelian Explanation of the Halo", available at: www.montejohnson.info/research

Recommended Reading: *Metaph.* 13.3

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ii 3 **Causality**

Required Reading: *Phys.* 2.3-9

Close Reading: "A Difficulty about Nature" (*Phys.* 2.8, 198b17-33)

Recommended Reading: *Metaph.* 12.1-10

ii 5 **Principles of Biology**

Required Reading: *PA* 1.1-5

Close Reading: "Exhortation to Biology" (*PA* 1.5, 644b23-645a36)

Recommended Reading: *HA* 1.1, *PA* 2.1, *GA* 1.1, 5.1

***Due: Rough Draft of Research Paper!**

ii 10 **Principles of Physiology and Psychology**

Required Reading: *de An.* 1.1, 2.1-4, *HA* 8.1

Close Reading: "Psychic Capacities" (*de An.* 2.3, 414a28-b20)

Recommended Reading: *de An.* 2.5-3.13

***Due: Comments on peer's rough draft!**

ii 12 **An Explanation of Dreaming**

Required Reading: *Somn.*; *Div. Somn.*

Close Reading: "A Scientific View of the Nature of Dreams" (*Somn.* 2, 459a23-33)

Recommended Reading: *Sens.*

ii 17 President's Holiday (no class)

ii 19 **An Explanation of Animal Motion**

Required Reading: *MA* 1-11

Close Reading: "An Automatic Theory of Action" (*MA* 7)

Recommended Reading: *de An.* 3.6-11

Recommended Re-Reading: *APo.* 2.11, *Mech.* 1

ii 24 **Principles of Political Science**

Required Reading: *EN* 1.1-2, *Pol.* 1.1-2, 3.6, 4.1

Close Reading: "Humans as Political Animals in the State of Nature" (*Pol.* 1.2, 1252b27-1253a38)

Recommended Reading: *Pol.* 1.3-3.5, 3.7-18

Recommended Re-Reading: *Metaph.* 1.2

***Due: Second Draft of Research Paper**

ii 26 **A Theory of Excellence**

Required Reading: *EN* 1.13-3.5

Close Reading: "A Definition of Moral Excellence" (*EN* 2.6, 1106b36-1107a8)

Recommended Reading: *EN* 3.6-5.11

Recommended Re-Reading: *EN* 6.1-13

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iii 3 **A Theory of Political Constitutions**

Required Reading: *EN* 10.9, *Pol.* 3.7-13, 4.2-5

Close Reading: "The Kinds of Government" (*Pol.* 3.7, 1279a25-39)

Recommended Reading: *Pol.* 5.1-6.8

iii 5 **A Theory of Civic Discourse**

Required Reading: *Rhet.* 1.1-3

Close Reading: "A Definition of Rhetoric" (*Rhet.* 1.2, 1355b26-36)

Recommended Reading: *Rhet.* 1.4-15

Recommended Re-Reading: *Apr.* 1.1, *Top.* 1.1

iii 10 **Moral Psychology of Anger**

Required Reading: *EN* 4.5, *Rhet.* 2.1-3

Close Reading: "The Definition of Anger" (*Rhet.* 2.3)

Recommended Reading: *Rhet.* 2.4-12

Recommended Re-Reading: *de An.* 1.1

iii 12 **Education and Creativity**

Required Reading: *Pol.* 7.13-15, *Poet.* 1-14

Close Reading: "Leisure as the End of the Individual and the State" (*Pol.* 7.15, 1334a12-39)

Recommended Reading: *Pol.* 7.1-12, 8.1-7; *Poet.* 15-26

***Due: Final Draft of Paper!**

iii 19 (Wednesday) 7:00p-9:59p Final Exam

Each student will give a 4-6 minute presentation on their research.

***Due: Presentation Handout!**