

**PHILOSOPHY 210: Plato and Aristotle on the Individual and Common Good,
Winter 2014**

Week 1: Elementary Communities (EC) and the good in Plato and Aristotle

Read Aristotle, *Politics*, Book I, chs. 1-7, 13.

ECs and the good in Plato—Body and Soul, Soul and its Parts; ECs in Aristotle—Body and Soul, Soul and its Parts, Male & Female, Master & Slave. (Notes and passages from Plato & Aristotle to be sent.)

Week 2: Thrasymachus (T) on Justice. How does T think of what is good for an individual? Of the Good of the city-state? Plato's disagrees with T's answers: he sees two problems with T's justice and the good of the city-state: namely, 1) the identification of justice and law, and 2) the self-interested partiality of individuals and groups (the stronger).

Readings: *Republic* (R), 327-354, *Blackwell Guide to the Republic* (BG), 125-9, *Understanding Plato's Republic* (UR), ch.2, R.E. Allen, Introduction to his translation of the *Republic* (to be distributed electronically; see the end of syllabus for readings).

Week 3: Glaucon (G) and Adeimantus (A) on individual good and the good of the city-state: G and A have the same individual goods as T, but different view of justice as promoting the good of the state. And Plato sees two more problems he will try to solve: 1) justice as a solution to the problem of conflicts resulting from desires for goods and limited resources, and 2) equality in limits to freedom and in security as the common good. Also significant: the downgrading of justice as a purely instrumental good.

R. 354-367, BG, 129-32, UR ch. 3, Rawls, TJ, ch. III, Sections 21.23, 24.

Week 4: Socrates on individual good and the good of the state: Plato sees the problem of justice in a different light from Glaucon. Needs vs. desires. The problem of justice as optimal cooperation rather than resolution of conflict. Division of labor, the natural lottery, and matching inborn talents and education to society's main tasks.

R. 367-419, BG, 132-141, UR, ch. 4, Rawls, TJ, ch. I, sections 1 & 2

Week 5: Socrates on individual good and good of the state. Justice as promoting the good of the city-state as a whole. Socrates response to the objection of Adeimantus in the opening lines of R. Bk. IV. The beautiful statue analogy: the common good as a non-aggregate of goods appropriate to different kinds of individuals or groups. Non-competitive goods that are not subject to zero sum games. Does Plato's justice really escape the problem of competitive goods, even in his own ideal city? Plato's concession on private property & private family.

R. 419-466, 519-22, UR., 194-202, Rawls, TJ, ch. II, section 12, Santas paper in BACAP

Week 6: Aristotle's Criticisms of Plato's Views in the *Republic* and of other Constitutions.

Read: *Pol.* II; R. Stalley, "Aristotle's Criticisms of Plato's *Republic*"; F. D. Miller, "Aristotle on Ideal Constitutions"; T. Irwin, "Aristotle on Private Property" (all three papers will be emailed as PDFs).

Week 7: The End of Political Science; the Good of the Individual and the Good of the Polis

NE, I.1-2, 7; X.6-end (will be made available in Dept. Library)

D. Keyt, "Intellectualism in Aristotle"; G. Richardson-Lear, "Happiness and the Structure of Ends" (both to be emailed)

D. Keyt, "Three Basic Theorems in Aristotle's *Politics*," (to be mailed electronically)

Pol., I.1; III.9

J. Cooper, "Political Animals and Civic Friendship" (to be emailed)

J. Cooper, "Political Community and the Highest Good" (to be emailed)

Week 8: Correct and Incorrect (deviant) Constitutions

Pol. III.1-8

C. Rowe, "Aristotelian Constitutions" (to be emailed as PDF)

D. Morrison, "The Common Good" (to be emailed)

F.D. Miller, *Nature, Justice, and Rights in Aristotle's Politics* (Oxford), Chapter 6 (to be made available in Dept. Library)

Week 9: Justice, Political Authority, and Democratic Equality

Pol. III.9-18, VI.3; D. Keyt, "Distributive Justice"; J. Waldron, "The Wisdom of the Multitude" (to be emailed as PDFs)

Week 10: Aristotle on the Best Constitution—the highest End it aims at and the Human Good, Intellectual/Contemplative activity (non-competitive) vs. Political activity (competitive); property; distribution of political tasks in order to meet the requirements of justice (equality); education.

Pol. VII, VIII; F. D. Miller, "Aristotle on the Ideal Constitution" (to be emailed); R. Kraut, "Politics VII and VIII: The Ideal Polis"; J. Cooper, "Aristotle on the Goods of Fortune" (to me emailed).

Materials on Plato's Republic

Allen, R.E., *Plato: Republic*, New Haven, 2006. Translation and fine Introduction

Benson, H., *A Companion to Plato*, Blackwell (Articles by Keyt and Meyer)

Bobonich, C., *Plato's Utopia Recast*, pp. 72-81, 419-449

F..M. Cornford, *The Republic of Plato*, Oxford. Another translation and a very useful analytic table of contents, and useful commentary (In Dept. Library)

T. Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*. Oxford, 1995. See comments on T. Several chapters on the R.

F. D. Miller, "The Rule of Reason in Plato's *Statesman* and the American *Federalist*" (to be emailed as PDF)

F.D. Miller, *Nature, Justice, and Rights in Aristotle's Politics*, ch. 6

Morrison, Don, "The Happiness of the City and the Happiness of the Individual in Plato's *Republic*," *Ancient Philosophy*, 2001, 21, pp. 1-24

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 1971, up to date informed discussions of our subjects (in Dept. Library).

John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, Columbia U. P.

G. Santas, ed., *The Blackwell Guide to the Republic*, 2005. (BG) (In Dept. Library)

G. Santas, *Understanding Plato's Republic*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010 (UR) (In Dept. Library)

G. Santas, "Plato on the Good of the City-State," forthcoming in BACAP, 2013 (available by email)

P. Shorey, *Plato: The Republic*, 2 vls. Literal translation, Intro, great notes. (In Dept. Library)

Additional materials on Aristotle's *Politics*

Translations by: C.D.C Reeve (Hackett); H. Rackham (Loeb, Greek and English); T.A. Sinclair (Penguin); E. Barker (Oxford)

R. Mulgan, *Aristotle's Political Theory* (Oxford)

D. Keyt & F.D. Miller (eds.), *A Companion to Aristotle* (Blackwell)

R Kraut, *Aristotle: Political Philosophy* (Oxford)

N. Smith, "Aristotle's Theory of Natural Slavery," in Keyt & Miller (eds.) *A Companion to Aristotle's Politics*.