PHILOSOPHY 100: PLATO  
Fall 2016

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Course Description  
This course is devoted to careful examination and evaluation of the main philosophical positions advocated and defended by Socrates and Plato, as they appear in Plato’s dialogues. Topics to be covered include: Socrates’ theory of definition; Socrates’ acceptance, and Plato’s denial, of (i) hedonism [the thesis that the good is pleasure], (ii) the impossibility of weakness-of-will, and (iii) moral intellectualism [the thesis that virtue is a kind of knowledge]; Socrates’ and Plato’s (rather different) defenses of the claim that virtue (justice in particular) is sufficient for happiness; the paradox of inquiry, the doctrine of recollection, and Plato’s arguments for the immortality of the soul; and Plato’s theory of forms, his theory of knowledge, and the emendations to those theories forced upon him by considerations raised in the Parmenides and Theaetetus.  
Prerequisites: Upper-division status; at least one philosophy course recommended.

Course Text  

This book is available for purchase in the UCSD campus bookstore, and has been placed on course reserve in Geisel Library. You need to bring this book with you to every lecture.

Course Website  
There is a course website for Phil 100 on TritonED (formerly TED). All course materials, including the syllabus, handouts, and assignments, will be placed on the TritonED website.

Handouts  
Handouts will NOT be handed out during lecture. Before a lecture that requires the use of handouts (see Course Schedule below), you must access the TritonED page, and bring an electronic or printed version of the handout(s) with you to lecture.
Course Schedule

September 23: Introduction to the study of Plato
  Handout: Thematic Ordering of Plato’s Dialogues

September 26: Socratic method described
  Reading: Apology
  Handouts: Apology: Structure
            Apology 24b-28a: Examination of Meletus

September 28: Socratic method in action
  Reading: Euthyphro (especially 5c-8b and 9e-11b)
  Handout: Euthyphro

September 30: Socratic method in action (cont’d)
  Reading: Euthyphro (especially 5c-8b and 9e-11b)
            Charmides 159a-161b
  Handouts: Euthyphro
            Charmides

October 3: Socrates’ theory of definition
  Reading: Meno (up to 80d)
  Handout: Socrates’ Theory of Definition

October 5: Socrates’ theory of definition (cont’d) and Socrates’ moral intellectualism
  Reading: Meno (up to 80d)
            Protagoras (up to 333b, especially 317e-333b; 349a-351a)
  Handouts: Socrates’ Theory of Definition
            Protagoras 317-351

October 7: Socrates’ moral intellectualism (cont’d)
  Reading: Protagoras (up to 333b, especially 317e-333b; 349a-351a)
  Handout: Protagoras 317-351

October 10: Socrates’ moral intellectualism (cont’d)
  Reading: Protagoras (351c-360e)
  Handout: Protagoras 351c-360e

FIRST PAPER DUE

October 12: Socrates’ moral intellectualism (cont’d)
  Reading: Euthydemus 278e-282
            Charmides 174a-d

October 14: Socrates’ moral intellectualism (cont’d)
  Reading: Republic I (especially 334e-335e, 348b-350d, and 352d-354a)
  Handout: Moral Intellectualism
October 17: Problems for moral intellectualism  
Reading: Protagoras 317e-320b and 360e-end  
Meno 86c-96c

October 19: Problems for moral intellectualism (cont’d)  
Reading: Laches (especially 189e-199e)  
Handout: Laches

October 21: Problems for moral intellectualism (cont’d)  
Reading: Gorgias 481b-499b  
Handout: Gorgias 494-499

October 24: The Paradox of Inquiry and the Doctrine of Recollection  
Reading: Meno 80d-85d  
Handout: Meno’s Paradox

October 26: The Doctrine of Recollection and the road to separate forms  
Reading: Meno 80d-85d  
Greater Hippias 287b-289d

October 28: The road to separate forms  
Reading: Greater Hippias 287b-289d  
Cratylus 439c-440d  
Handout: Greater Hippias and Cratylus (just one handout)

October 31: Separate forms and immortality  
Reading: Meno 85d-86b  
Symposium 211a-b  
Phaedo 70b-107a  
Handout: Phaedo

November 2: Separate forms and immortality (cont’d)  
Reading: Meno 85d-86b  
Symposium 211a-b  
Phaedo 70b-107a  
Handout: Phaedo

November 4: The challenge of the Republic and the method to meet it  
Reading: Republic, Book II, 357a-376c

November 7: The education of the guardians  
Reading: Republic, Books II-IV, 376c-427d (especially 412b-415d)

November 9: Justice in city and soul  
Reading: Republic, Book IV, 427d-445e  
Handout: Virtues in the Republic
November 11: NO LECTURE (Veterans Day)

November 14: Plato’s theory of forms
   Reading:  Republic V-VI, 449a-502c (focus on 471c-487a)
   Handout: Republic 476e-480a

SECOND PAPER DUE

November 16: The Sun, the Line, and the Cave
   Reading:  Republic VI-VII, 502c-541b (focus on 502c-521b, 532d-535a)

November 18: Plato’s defense of justice
   Reading: Republic VIII-IX, 543a-592b (especially Book IX, focus on 583b-587b)
   Handout: Republic 583-587

November 21: Problems for Plato’s theory of forms
   Reading: Parmenides (up to 132b2)
   Handout: Three Problems for Forms (focus on the first two)

November 23: Problems for Plato’s theory of forms
   Reading: Parmenides 132d-134e
   Handout: Three Problems for Forms (focus on the third, and try to figure out the fourth)

November 25: NO LECTURE (Thanksgiving)

November 28: Plato’s answer
   Reading: Parmenides 135a-155e, and as much as you can manage after 155e

November 30: Problems for Plato’s theory of knowledge
   Reading: Theaetetus 200d-210d

December 2: Review of main themes

Tuesday, December 6: FINAL EXAMINATION (11:30am-2:30pm)

Course Requirements

* Ten Quizzes 10%
* First Paper (~1200 words) 20% due October 10
* Second Paper (~2200 words) 30% due November 14
* Final Examination 40% December 6

No early or late final will be given for this course, except in cases of medical or family emergency. If your finals week plans conflict with taking the final at the scheduled time, then please do not register for this course.
Attendance at every lecture and doing the required reading (including any handouts) ahead of each lecture are absolutely critical. As insurance against missing a lecture (for whatever reason), please arrange (ahead of time) to borrow notes from someone else in the course.

There will be no make-up quizzes. The lowest two grades on the ten quizzes will be automatically dropped, and your quiz grade will be calculated from the eight remaining quizzes.

Paper extensions will only be given to those who present evidence indicative of a valid excuse in a timely manner. [Note that computer or printer failure does not usually constitute a valid excuse.] If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension either at that time or later in the quarter, bring it to my attention as soon as possible (e.g., if you are going to be out of town for a legitimate purpose, such as a university-sponsored concert performance, athletic event, conference, or the equivalent). Unexcused late papers will receive a grade of F.

If you need to make an appointment to see me outside of office hours, please do so by contacting me by email with at least several days’ notice.

Additional Notes

* If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.

* The academic honor code must be observed in this course. Any student who cheats or plagiarizes (even a little bit) will receive an automatic F for the course and will be referred to the Academic Integrity Coordinator for disciplinary proceedings that may lead to suspension or expulsion. For a definition of plagiarism, please consult the UCSD library website:

http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/instruction/preventing-plagiarism/index.html

* The policies stated above are subject to change.