

UCSD WINTER 2015
PHILOSOPHY 101: ARISTOTLE

WLH 2208
MW 5:00-6:20pm
ted.ucsd.edu

Professor Monte Ransome Johnson
monte@ucsd.edu
HSS 7058 Office Hours: W 3:00-4:00pm

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 theoretical science, including, physics, 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 practical science including the theories of moral and intellectual virtues, classification of constitutional kinds, and 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.