

## PHILOSOPHY 110, FALL 2016

Lectures: M. & W. 5:00-6:20 pm, SOLIS 109

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TEXTS: Plato: *Five Dialogues; Republic; Timaeus*. Aristotle: J. L. Ackrill, *A New Aristotle Reader*  
All the articles and some excerpts from Aristotle texts will be found on the **TritonEd** (Blackboard) site for the class.

### Lectures & Readings:

**9/26** Preliminaries, course content, course requirements

**9/28** Read: *Meno* (Stephanus pages: 70a-81a ); R. Robinson, "Socratic Definition"; R. E. Allen, "Plato's Earlier Theory of Forms."

Plato's predecessors and their influence on him; Socratic definition, its uses, its objects, Socratic Forms.

**10/3** Read: *Meno* (81a-100b)

Problems with the Socratic method, and the Socratic Fallacy; Theory of Recollection; the distinction between Knowledge and Belief; the Socratic position on whether or not virtue can be taught.

**10/5** Read: *Phaedo* (57a-84c); A. Nehamas, "Plato on the Imperfection of the Sensible World"

The nature of philosophy as a way of life and of philosophical knowledge as a priori; the distinct faculties of knowledge and perception; Platonic Forms in the Recollection & Affinity Arguments; Ideal and Proper attributes of the Forms.

**10/10** Read: *Phaedo* (84d-118); D. Devereux, "Separation and Immanence in Plato's Theory of Forms"; H. F. Cherniss, "The Philosophical Economy of the Theory of Ideas."

Argument from Harmony and the role of Forms in causal explanations.

**10/12** Read: *Republic* (471c-480; 503b-518d); J. Annas, "Understanding and the Good: Sun, Line, and Cave"; M. L. Gill, "Problems for Forms"; G. Santas, "Two Theories of Good in Plato's *Republic*."

Knowledge and the Forms; the Sun and Line Analogies; the Allegory of the Cave

**10/17** Read *Republic* (336b-368b)

Thrasymachus' challenge, his conception of justice and of goods, the question whether justice or injustice is a virtue; Socrates' argument from function for determining virtue & functional good.

Glaucon's and Adeimantus' challenge and their contractarian conception of justice

**10/19** Read: *Republic* (368c-383c, 412b-417b; 419a-445e); H. Lorenz, "The Analysis of the Soul in Plato's *Republic*"; D. Sachs, "A Fallacy in Plato's *Republic*."

Construction of the ideal city/constitution, the excellences/virtues of the city, the parts of the soul, virtues of the individual, fallacy in the *Republic*

**10/24** Read: *Republic* 449-466c, 472-474, 589-591); G. Vlastos, "Was Plato a Feminist?"; C. C. W. Taylor, "Plato's Totalitarianism".

Plato's three "waves"—equality of women; unity as the greatest good of the city and abolition of family; philosophers as rulers; the character of Plato's ideal polis.

**10/26** Read: *Timeaeus* (29d7-47e2)

Reasons for the creation of the world; its uniqueness and composition; its body and soul; the creation of time and of some heavenly bodies; the creation of individual bodies and souls, etc.

**10/31** Read: Aristotle, *Categories* (Bekker pp. 1b-4b15) Gareth Matthews, “Aristotelian Categories”

Primary and secondary substance and their main features; criticisms of Platonism

**11/2** Read: *Posterior Analytics* (Book I, chapters 1-3, 71a-73a20; Book II, ch. 19, 99b-100b17)

The nature of scientific knowledge, demonstrative syllogism and the nature of its premises, knowledge of First Principles and criticisms of Plato’s innate ideas

**11/7** Read: *Metaphysics* (Book I [A], chs. 1-2; Book III [B], ch. 1; Book IV [Γ], chs. 1-4)

From sensation to philosophy and the features of wisdom; the main questions of philosophy; the study of being as such and the axioms of being

**11/9** Read: *On the Soul* (Book II, chs. 1-6); Christopher Shields, “The Aristotelian *Psyche*.”

The definition of the soul; the faculties of the soul; nutrition and sensation; the kinds of sensible objects

**11/14** Read: *On the Soul* (Book III, chs. 1-5)

Common sense; distinguishing among thinking, perceiving, and imagining; passive and active intellect

**11/16** Read: *Parts of Animals* (Book I, chs. 1 & 5; Book II, ch. 1)

Method in natural science; defense of the study of every aspect of nature; levels of composition of the parts of animals and their relations

**11/21** Read: *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book I, chs. 1-8, 13; Book X, chs. 6-9); Gabriel Richardson Lear, “Happiness and the Structure of Ends”

The human good as end, the structure of means-ends, happiness as the final end; the function argument and the nature of the human good/end, the features of happiness, theoretical and practical lives.

**11/23** Read: *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book II, chs. 1-7, 9)

Virtue, its nature and acquisition

**11/28** Read: *Politics* (Book I, chs. 1-7; III, 1-4; III, ch. 9 [on Blackboard])

The nature and end of the political association & how it differs from other associations; how the various associations come to be and their ends; natural slaves; what is required for being a citizen; political justice

**11/30** Read: *Politics* (Book VII, chs. 1-3; VII, ch. 9-10 [on Blackboard]; VII, chs. 13-15)

The necessity of knowing the highest end for humans for inquiring after the ideal constitution; the theoretical vs. the political life; the distribution of political offices and resources in the ideal constitution; the kind of life the citizens of the ideal city are expected to live and the kind of education required for it.

### Course Requirements

There will be time set aside for discussion in class, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Writing requirements:

- (a) Three short essays (3-4 pages each) that will be due in class on the following dates: 10/12, 11/2, 11/23.
- (b) One paper about 10-12 pages long that will be due by December 2, 4:00 pm, in my mailbox, H&SS, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor.