

PHILOSOPHY 100: PLATO

Fall 2017

Instructor: Sam Rickless

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00am-1:00pm, or by appointment

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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

Cooper, John M., ed. 1997. Plato: Complete Works. Hackett Publishing Company.

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. 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 29: Introduction to the study of Plato

Handout: Thematic Ordering of Plato's Dialogues

October 2: Socratic method described

Reading: *Apology*

Handouts: *Apology*: Structure

Apology 24b-28a: Examination of Meletus

October 4: Socratic method in action

Reading: *Euthyphro* (especially 5c-8b and 9e-11b)

Handout: *Euthyphro*

October 6: Socratic method in action (cont'd)

Reading: *Euthyphro* (especially 5c-8b and 9e-11b)

Charmides 159a-161b

Handouts: *Euthyphro*

Charmides

October 9: Socrates' theory of definition

Reading: *Meno* (up to 80d)

Handout: Socrates' Theory of Definition

October 11: 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 13: Socrates' moral intellectualism (cont'd)

Reading: *Protagoras* (up to 333b, especially 317e-333b; 349a-351a)

Handout: *Protagoras* 317-351

October 16: Socrates' moral intellectualism (cont'd)

Reading: *Protagoras* (351c-360e)

Handout: *Protagoras* 351c-360e

FIRST PAPER DUE

October 18: Socrates' moral intellectualism (cont'd)

Reading: *Euthydemus* 278e-282

Charmides 174a-d

October 20: Socrates' moral intellectualism (cont'd)

Reading: *Republic I* (especially 334e-335e, 348b-350d, and 352d-354a)

Handout: Moral Intellectualism

October 23: Problems for moral intellectualism

Reading: *Protagoras 317e-320b* and *360e-end*
Meno 86c-96c

October 25: Problems for moral intellectualism (cont'd)

Reading: *Laches* (especially *189e-199e*)
Handout: *Laches*

October 27: Problems for moral intellectualism (cont'd)

Reading: *Gorgias 481b-499b*
Handout: *Gorgias 494-499*

October 30: The Paradox of Inquiry and the Doctrine of Recollection

Reading: *Meno 80d-85d*
Handout: *Meno's Paradox*

November 1: The Doctrine of Recollection and the road to separate forms

Reading: *Meno 80d-85d*
Greater Hippias 287b-289d

November 3: The road to separate forms

Reading: *Greater Hippias 287b-289d*
Cratylus 439c-440d
Handout: *Greater Hippias and Cratylus* (just one handout)

November 6: Separate forms and immortality

Reading: *Meno 85d-86b*
Symposium 211a-b
Phaedo 70b-107a
Handout: *Phaedo*

November 8: Separate forms and immortality (cont'd)

Reading: *Meno 85d-86b*
Symposium 211a-b
Phaedo 70b-107a
Handout: *Phaedo*

November 10: NO LECTURE (Veterans Day)

November 13: The challenge of the *Republic* and the method to meet it

Reading: *Republic, Book II, 357a-376c*

November 15: The education of the guardians

Reading: *Republic, Books II-IV, 376c-427d* (especially *412b-415d*)

November 17: Justice in city and soul

Reading: *Republic, Book IV, 427d-445e*

Handout: Virtues in the *Republic*

November 20: Plato's theory of forms

Reading: *Republic V-VI, 449a-502c* (focus on *471c-487a*)

Handout: *Republic 476e-480a*

SECOND PAPER DUE

November 22: The Sun, the Line, and the Cave

Reading: *Republic VI-VII, 502c-541b* (focus on *502c-521b, 532d-535a*)

November 24: NO LECTURE (Thanksgiving)

November 27: Plato's defense of justice

Reading: *Republic VIII-IX, 543a-592b* (especially *Book IX*, focus on *583b-587b*)

Handout: *Republic 583-587*

November 29: Problems for Plato's theory of forms

Reading: *Parmenides* (up to *132b2*)

Handout: Three Problems for Forms (focus on the first two)

December 1: 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)

December 4: Plato's answer

Reading: *Parmenides 135a-155e*, and as much as you can manage after *155e*

December 6: Problems for Plato's theory of knowledge

Reading: *Theaetetus 200d-210d*

December 8: Review of main themes

Friday, December 15: **FINAL EXAMINATION** (8:00am-11:00am)

Course Requirements

*	Ten Quizzes	10%	
*	First Paper (~1200 words)	20%	due October 16
*	Second Paper (~2200 words)	30%	due November 20
*	Final Examination	40%	December 15

No early or late final examination will be given for this course, except in cases of medical or family emergency, or disability accommodation. If your finals week plans conflict with taking the final examination 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, 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/assets/elearning/plagiarism/mod1-define-web/story_html5.html

* The policies stated above are subject to change.