

PHILOSOPHY 110, FALL 2018

Lectures: Tue. & Th. 5:00-6:20 pm, HSS 7077

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TEXTS: Plato: *Five Dialogues*; *Republic*; *Statesman*. 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:

9/27 Preliminaries, course content, course requirements

10/2 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.

10/4 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.

10/9 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.

10/11 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.

10/16 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

10/18 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

10/23 Read: *Republic* (368c-383c, 412b-417b; 419-445e); 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*

10/25 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.

10/30 Read: *Statesman* (257a-268d, 274e-279a, 287b-300e, 303b-311c)

The various attempts to define the statesman; the use of the example of weaving in order to deal with the problems of the proposed definition of the statesman; the use of the nature of weaving by the statesman as a model for creating the best society by properly mixing the psychological traits of the members of the community.

11/1 Read: Aristotle, *Categories* (Bekker pp. 1b-4b15) Gareth Matthews, “Aristotelian Categories”
Primary and secondary substance and their main features; criticisms of Platonism

11/6 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

11/8 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

11/13 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

11/15 Read: *On the Soul* (Book III, chs. 1-5)
Common sense; distinguishing among thinking, perceiving, and imagining; passive and active intellect

11/20 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

11/27 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.

11/29 Read: *Nicomachean Ethics* (Book II, chs. 1-7, 9)
Virtue, its nature and acquisition

12/4 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

12/6 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 at the end of each lecture, and all students are encouraged to participate.

Writing requirements:

- (a) Two short essays (4 pages each) that will be due in class on the following dates: 10/25, 11/20. Each essay will be worth 20 points.
- (b) One paper about 8-10 pages long that will be due by December 12, 4:00 pm, in my mailbox, H&SS, 7th Floor. Final paper will be worth 50 points. The remaining 10 points will be distributed on the basis of a student’s contribution to discussion.