PHIL 202: Greek Ethics  
Fall 2011; Prof. David O. Brink  
Syllabus

This is an idealized syllabus for Greek Ethics. It outlines a fairly comprehensive course, which might be feasible on a semester system, but which is too ambitious for the quarter system. We will have to focus on Greek ethical theory, ignoring many interesting topics in Greek political theory. Even within Greek ethical theory, our focus will be selective. Nonetheless, I think it is useful to provide the more comprehensive Syllabus here, because some students might want information about additional topics and readings for further reading and/or a paper topic. The topics from this more comprehensive Syllabus that I do not expect us to have time to cover are §§6, 8, 9, and 11.

The following texts have been ordered for the seminar and should be available at the university bookstore.

Recommended:

Required:

I will make a copy of Irwin’s book available in the departmental library.

Recommended readings are drawn from the required texts and are preceded by '(A)'. Required readings are preceded by '(B)'. Especially recommended readings are preceded by an asterisk. Bibliographic details for texts can be found on the Select Bibliography. If you are having trouble locating a particular text, let me know, and I can try to help (e.g. lend you a copy myself).

0. GENERAL
- (B) *Irwin, The Development of Ethics*, vol. I.

1. PRESOCRATIC BACKGROUND

2. SOCRATES AND PLATO
- (A) *Apology*.
- (B) *Crito*. *Aristotle, Metaphysics* i 6, xiii 4; *Irwin, Plato's Ethics*, ch. 1 and "Plato: The Intellectual Background" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut; *Vlastos,

3. SOCRATIC METHOD AND ETHICS
   • (A) *Euthyphro; Laches; Lysis* esp. 219d-220b; *Euthydemus* esp. 278e-282e.

4. HEDONISTIC ANSWERS TO SOCRATIC QUESTIONS: THE PROTAGORAS
   • (A) *Protagoras* [esp. 317e-334c, 348c-362a].

5. JUSTICE AND DIALECTIC: THE GORGIAS
   • (A) *Gorgias* [esp. 461b-508c].
   • (B) Gosling and Taylor, *The Greeks on Pleasure*, ch. 4; *Irwin, Plato’s *Gorgias* [notes], "Objectivity and Coercion in Plato’s Dialectic," “Socrates the Epicurean” reprinted in *Essays on the Philosophy of Socrates*, ed. Benson, and *Plato’s Ethics*, chs. 7-8; *Vlastos, Socrates, Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, ch. 8; White, "Rational Prudence in Plato’s *Gorgias*.”

6. DISOBEDIENCE AND DEMOCRACY: THE CRITO
   • (A) *Crito*.
   • (B) Brickhouse and Smith, *Socrates on Trial*; *Irwin, "Socratic Inquiry and Politics" and *"Socrates and Athenian Democracy"*; *Kraut, Socrates and the State*; Vlastos, "The Historical Socrates and Athenian Democracy" in Vlastos, *Socratic Studies*.

7. THE REPUBLIC
   • I. General
     o (A) *Republic* i-ix
     o (B) Annas, *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*; *Irwin, Plato’s Ethics*, chs. 11-18.
   • II. Doubts about Justice
     o (A) *Republic* i-ii (through 367e)
     o (B) *Irwin, Plato’s Ethics*, chs. 11-12; White, "The Classification of Goods in Plato’s *Republic*."
• III. Moral Psychology and the Virtues
  o (A) Republic ii-iv
  o (B) Cooper, "The Psychology of Justice in Plato" and "Plato's Theory of Human Motivation" in Reason and Emotion; *Irwin, Plato's Ethics, chs. 13-14.

• IV. The Eudaimonist Defense of Justice
  o (A) Republic iv, vii-ix

• V. Platonic Love
  o (A) Symposium 210-212; Phaedrus 230-234, 237-257.
  o (B) Brink, "Self-love and Altruism" and "Eudaimonism, Love and Friendship, and Political Community"; *Irwin, Plato's Ethics, ch. 18; Price, Love and Friendship in Plato and Aristotle, chs. 2-3; *Vlastos, "The Individual as Object of Love in Plato" in Vlastos, Platonic Studies.

• VI. Metaphysics and Epistemology
  o (A) Republic v-vii
  o (B) *Phaedo; *Fine, "Knowledge and Belief in Republic v-vii"; *Irwin, Plato's Ethics, ch. 16; Vlastos, "Degrees of Reality in Plato" in Vlastos, Platonic Studies; White, "Plato's Metaphysical Epistemology" in The Cambridge Companion to Plato, ed. Kraut.

8. THE POLITICAL THEORY OF THE REPUBLIC
• (A) Review Republic ii-ix, esp. 347bc, 368c-376d, 413c-434e, 451b-466d, 471c-474c, 487b-489d, 492a-496a, 499d-501c, 519b-521b, 539e-580c, 590a-592b.
• (B) *Statesman and Laws 624a-636e, 643a-645e, 653a-c, 660e-668d, 676a-681d, 687a-690c, 694b, 697a-698b, 701de, 705d-706a, 712c-715d, 719e-720e, 722c-728c, 730b-735a, 739a-e, 744a-745b, 745e-746d, 756b-758d, 759b, 767e-771a, 780a-783a, 811c-e, 818a, 853a-854c, 857b-858b, 859c-864c, 874e-875d, 924a-c, 945b-e, 949e-952d, 960d-end; Barker, The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle, esp. chs. 3-4; Brink, "Eudaimonism, Love and Friendship, and Political Community;" *Mill On Liberty; Popper, The Open Society and Its Enemies, vol. 1; Vlastos, "Was Plato a Feminist?"; White, "The Ruler's Choice".

9. PLATO'S PHILEBUS
• (A) Philebus.

10. ARISTOTLE'S ETHICS
• I. General
  o (A) Nicomachean Ethics, esp. i-iii, v, vii-x.
(B) *Eudemian Ethics; Magna Moralia; Annas, The Morality of Happiness; Hardie, Aristotle's Ethical Theory; Irwin, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics [notes and glossary] and *Aristotle's First Principles, esp. chs. 16-21; Kraut, Aristotle on the Human Good; *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics, ed. Rorty.

II. Eudaimonia
- (A) Nicomachean Ethics i and x.

III. Virtue and Akrasia
- (A) Nicomachean Ethics ii-v, vii.

IV. Eudaimonism and the Good of Others: Friendship and Justice
- (A) Nicomachean Ethics v, viii-ix.

11. ARISTOTLE'S POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY
- (A) Politics, esp. i-iv, vii.

12. EPICUREAN HEDONISM
- (A) Cicero, De Finibus i-ii; Long and Sedley, The Hellenistic Philosophers §§21-25.
- (B) Lucretius, On the Nature of the Universe. Annas, The Morality of Happiness; Long and Sedley, The Hellenistic Philosophers [commentary]; *Mitsis, Epicurus’ Ethical Theory and "Epicurus on Death and the Duration of Life."
13. STOIC ETHICS