

□γαθὸν ἐπέκεινα τῆς οὐσίας
.....the good beyond being.....

Socrates and Plato

Phi 301

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NOTE: Make sure your correct email address is registered so that you receive emails from me.

SUMMARY

This is an asynchronous course. We will not be meeting online as a class. I will be uploading video and audio files, as well as occasional written comments on the reading, and will remain available for email communication.

This is a textbook-based online course. It is absolutely NECESSARY that you OWN and READ the textbook in order to succeed in this course. I have chosen our textbook very carefully. It has theoretically rich chapters that are very carefully written and should provide the diligent student with considerable insight into the nature of philosophy.

I am mainly interested in your learning of the substantial content of the course. This content includes main concepts. You cannot learn anything of substance by soaking up impressions and being vaguely familiar with topics. You must be able to define basic terminology, interpret it in terms of its pros and cons, and perhaps explain things in its terms. So, this term you will have a variety of questions to answer, ranging from defining basic terms, analyzing them rationally, comparing them critically, and explaining how they help us to understand other things. That is *real* learning.

So, if you wish to succeed in the course, you must (a) submit ALL assignments, (b) submit them on time, and (c) make sure they are of sufficient length, or longer than required.

Course Objectives

We will be introduced to the basic concepts of Socratism and Platonism. Distinguishing between the teachings and methods of Socrates and the theories of Plato will be our foremost textual concern. After covering the early dialogues in which Socrates presents his famous method, we will consider the evolution of the Platonic theory of forms. The semester will conclude with an examination of the later dialogues, in which Plato presents his most sophisticated notion of dialectic, the method of division.

By semesters' end, you will have improved your skills in critical thinking and analytic reading, be more adept at evaluating and developing arguments, and be able to identify philosophical reasoning wherever it may raise its hoary head.

VIRTUES

There are a number of scholarly and personal virtues necessary for success in this or any other class:

FIDELITY, or constancy of purpose in devotion to learning;

INDUSTRIOUSNESS, or always working when working is called for;

DILIGENCE, or always working well, both as the task requires and as one's abilities permit;

PERSPICACITY, or always learning the details of a matter instead of being merely 'vaguely familiar' with it;

HUMILITY, the proper understanding of one's own self-worth without claiming to be entitled to anything beyond that worth; and

GRATITUDE, the acknowledgement that something transcends oneself and provides appreciable natural gifts.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle (S. Marc Cohen, editor). 5TH EDITION, Hackett, 2016.

ISBN-13 978-1624665325

ASSIGNMENTS

Your final grade will be the average of five assignments, four tests and one final paper. Each assignment will be worth 100 points.

FORMAT OF ASSIGNMENTS

The tests will be fill-in-the-blank and/or short essay questions. I will typically ask you to define something, list its forms or aspects, then ask you to interpret it or explain something in its light. Many questions will be about the text itself, so it will be necessary to own the textbook. Some questions will have the format 'Explain the passage at the lower right hand corner of page 145'. If you do not own the textbook, you will not be able to answer the question.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will be uploading your papers to Canvas, where they will be scanned for plagiarism. I WILL NOT accept papers by any other means. You must upload your papers by the deadline. They will not be accepted by hand or as an email attachment (no exceptions).

Your paper may be uploaded any time in the week prior to the specified deadline. I will not accept your paper at any other time or by any other means (NO EXCEPTIONS). In my experience, it is best if I do NOT violate this rule. So make sure you understand that there is a specific way you will submit your assignment, and no other.

Attention: Your work must be typed DOUBLE-SPACED.

Also, it is best to read and take notes before you type in your answers. You will receive a low grade if you simply look through the book for answers, since it will be obvious to me that you are doing so.

SCHEDULE

(NOTE: some of the numbers in reference to the Plato below are NOT page numbers, but 'Stephanus numbers', that is, marginal reference numbers. Look at the left and right margins of the text for these numbers).

Socratism

Week One

No reading

Week Two

Apology (pages 1-17)

Lysis (pages 687-708)

View 'Socratism', 'Euthyphro1' and 'Lysis1'

Week Three

Protagoras on the Unity of the Virtues (pages 746-791)

View 'Protagoras21' and 'Anaxagoras'

Week Four

Phaedo (pages 49-101) and *Meno* (pages 870-898) on Memory and the Soul

View 'MenoPhaedoSoul'

Week Five

TEST

Socrates and the Sophists

Week Six

Republic I (pages 972-998)

Gorgias (pages. 791-870)

View 'Sophists'

Week Seven

Euthydemus (pages 708-746)

Sophist (pages, 235-294)

Socrates and the Madness of Love

Week Eight

Symposium (pages 457-506)

Phaedrus (pages 506-557)

Week Nine

TEST

Plato and Forms

Week Ten

Meno (870-898) and *Phaedo* (49-101) on forms

Parmenides (pages 360-397, especially reference numbers 126-135)

View 'MenoPhaedoForms'

Week Eleven

Republic, book V (476a-480a) and Book VI (506d-511e)

VIEW: Gygesjustice, SelfCityPlato, PlatoAllegories, Caveeducation, and HeraclitusParmenides

Week Twelve

TEST

Week Thirteen

Thanksgiving

Platonism and the Method of Division

Week Fourteen

Theaetetus (pages 157-235)

Philebus (pages 398-457)

Week Fifteen

TEST

Final Paper due at time schedule for final examination

Academic Integrity Violations

The Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work. Intentionally committing plagiarism is a serious offense with severe consequences. Instructors are required to report students who intentionally violate this policy to the department chairperson and to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The most common forms of plagiarism are:

Quoting directly or paraphrasing without acknowledging the source (this includes copying or paraphrasing material from a web site without providing a proper citation for the site)

Presenting the work of another as one's own

Plagiarizing major portions of a written assignment

Submitting purchased materials such as term papers

The Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy establishes levels of violations and recommends sanctions. Depending upon the severity of the case and the level of the violation, the sanctions for these violations include: a failing grade for the assignment, failure in the course, mandatory participation in a series of noncredit academic integrity workshops, academic probation, and/or suspension. (If you are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism or are concerned that you are misappropriating someone's words or ideas, speak immediately with your instructor. For more information, you can also consult the University Code of Student Conduct or the Student Judicial Affairs website <http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu>.)

Policy concerning Disabilities

Rutgers abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and the accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities.