

PHIL 390: Plato's Republic
Spring 2019, Tu/Th 9:30 – 10:45am
Caldwell Hall, Rm 105

INSTRUCTOR: Phil Bold

Office: 12A Caldwell Hall

Office Hours: TBD

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will be centered around a careful reading of Plato's Republic. Topics include, but are not restricted to, happiness, the human soul, freedom, ideology, knowledge, politics, power, as well as the nature and aims of philosophy itself. Although our primary goal will be to understand Plato's systematic perspective on these matters, students will be encouraged to formulate their own views as we proceed through the semester, and will be given many opportunities to do so. We will frequently connect our discussions of Plato to contemporary social and political issues, such as gender inequality, climate change, the limitations and aspirations of democracy, consumerism, propaganda, and the values encoded in mainstream media—though our focus and emphasis will be determined by student interest. Course format will include a mix of lecture and student led discussion. Grading for the course will be based on two papers, regular forum posts, and active participation in class.

GRADING AND MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

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|---------------------------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Participation | (35%) | |
| - Class Performance | | |
| - Regular Forum Posts | | |
| - Regular Attendance | | |
| 2. First Exegetical Paper (3-4 pages) | (25%) | DUE: Friday, February 22 nd before midnight |
| 3. Final Critical Paper (7-8 pages) | (40%) | DUE: Wednesday, May 1 st before midnight |

PARTICIPATION: Discussion is the core of this class. Thursday classes will be dedicated to addressing student comments and questions, posed in class and in your regular forum posts. You should come to every class prepared to talk about the assigned readings and the course topics. The participation component of your grade will also factor in your attendance record as well as the regular completion and quality of your forum posts. I will provide a mid-semester participation estimate with comments and suggestions for improvement.

PAPERS: There are two major papers for this course. The first is an exegetical paper (3-4 pages), in which you will be asked to explain a key text in the work as clearly as possible. The second is a critical paper (7-8 pages), in which you will respond to a contemporary essay on Plato's *Republic* that raises a central challenge or question. There will be a handful of small assignments leading up to your final paper that are designed to help you prepare, including peer interviews and outline/draft submissions before the official deadline.

ELECTRONICS POLICY: No electronics allowed in class.

LATE WORK: Extensions are granted liberally as long as you have received permission from the instructor. Late work submitted without a granted extension will be penalized 10% for every day past the official deadline.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS: If you need to arrange for accommodations for a disability, please let me know. For Accessibility Resources & Services see ARS website: <https://ars.unc.edu/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty is a serious offense at UNC. All students are expected to adhere to the UNC Honor Code. Please make yourself familiar with the university's policies on plagiarism. It may be helpful to take the UNC plagiarism tutorial: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism>.

CLASS SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

REQUIRED TEXT: Plato, *Republic*, Translated by C.D.C. Reeve, 2004, Hackett Publishing Company Inc.

Week 1 (Th, Jan 10th) **Introduction, Allegory of the Cave**

**Major Deadlines*

Assigned Reading: Syllabus, & Rep. 514a – 520d5 (pp. 208 – 214)

Week 2 (Tu/Th, Jan 15th & 17th) **The Intellectual and Socio-Political Context**

Assigned Reading: *Euthyphro* (Available on Sakai), & Rep. 327a – 336a10 (pp. 1 – 12)

Week 3 (Tu/Th, Jan 22nd & 24th) **Thrasymachus on Justice and Power**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 336b – 354c (pp. 12 – 35)

Week 4 (Tu/Th, Jan 29th & 31st) **Glaucon and Adeimantus's Challenge**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 357a – 368c (pp. 36 – 46)

Week 5 (Tu/Th, Feb 5th & 7th) **Building the Ideal City (“Kallipolis”)**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 368c – 383c5 (pp. 46 – 65)

Week 6 (Tu/Th, Feb 12th & 14th) **Educating the Guardians, “The Noble Lie”**

Assigned Reading: Rep. Book 3 (pp. 66 – 102)

Week 7 (Tu/Th, Feb 19th & 21st) **Virtues Identified in the Ideal City**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 419a – 434d (pp. 103 – 121)

**First Paper Due Friday before midnight*

Week 8 (Tu/Th, Feb 26th & 28th) **Justice in the Divided Soul**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 434d – 445e (pp. 121 – 135)

**Participation Estimate & Comments by Monday*

Week 9 (Tu/Th, March 5th & 7th) **Women, Family, and War in Kallipolis**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 449a – 471b5 (pp. 136 – 164)

Week 10 (Tu/Th, March 19th & 21st) **Philosopher Rulers and the Possibility of Kallipolis**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 471c – 502c10 (pp. 164 – 197)

Week 11 (Tu/Th, March 26th & 28th) **The Sun, Line, & (Return to) The Cave**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 502c10 – 541b (pp. 197 – 237)

Week 12 (Tu/Th, April 2nd & 4th) **Injustice: Causes and Varieties**

Assigned Reading: Rep. Book 8 (pp. 238 – 269)

**Group Interview/Recording Due Friday before midnight*

Week 13 (Tu/Th, April 9th & 11th) **Happiness, Virtue, and Vice: The Final Demonstrations**

Assigned Reading: Rep. Book 9 (pp. 270 – 296)

Week 14 (Tu/Th, April 16th & 18th) **Plato's Critique of the Popular Arts**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 595a – 608b (pp. 297 – 312)

**Paper Draft or Outline Due Friday before midnight*

Week 15 (Tu/Th, April 23rd & 25th) **The Immortality of the Soul and the Afterlife**

Assigned Reading: Rep. 608b – End (pp. 312 – 326)

**Final Paper Due Wednesday May 1st before midnight*