

Acknowledgement: UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the *xwməθkwəy̓əm* (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

**PHIL 310: Philosophy of Plato
Winter Term 1 2020**

Instructor: Brooks Sommerville
Lectures: MWF 11:00am-12:00pm
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 9:30-10:30am
Email: brooks.sommerville@ubc.ca

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to Plato's philosophy as he develops it in a number of dialogues: *Euthyphro*, *Protagoras*, *Phaedo*, and *Republic*. At the time Plato writes these dialogues, the lines between philosophy and other disciplines, such as rhetoric, natural science, and religious prophesy, are not clearly drawn. While part of Plato's project is to draw and defend precisely these boundaries, the dialogues themselves are a complicated blend of philosophical and dramatic elements. We will examine the interaction between these elements. Some of the more dramatic features we will consider are: the role of the dialectical setting in framing the conversation to come; Plato's characterizations of Socrates and of his interlocutors; and his use of myth. We will follow Plato's Socrates as he seeks to answer a variety of philosophical questions: What is the nature of the divine?; Is philosophy a form of rhetoric?; Are we immortal?; How does one become a morally good person?; What reasons does one have to *want* to be a morally good person? As we will see, Plato's distinctive formulations of these questions are of as much philosophical interest as his answers.

Synchronous Instruction: Please note that students will be expected to participate in one hour of synchronous instruction per week. All remaining elements of instruction will be asynchronous, except for office hours.

Course Evaluation:

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| 1. Assignment 1 (4-6 pages) | (20%) due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Oct. 5 |
| 2. Assignment 2 (4-6 pages) | (20%) due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Nov. 2 |
| 3. Assignment 3 (4-6 pages) | (20%) due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Nov. 23 |
| 4. Quizzes (x5) | (10%) see reading schedule for deadlines |
| 5. Final Exam | (30%) date TBA |

Book:

It is important that everyone be using the same translation, so please use the following book, which is available through the UBC Bookstore:

Reeve, C. D. C. (Ed.). (2012). *A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues*. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Readings for Plato's *Protagoras* will be available on Canvas.

Additional Information About Assignments, Quizzes, and Final Exam:

Assignments:

You must submit three assignments, each worth 20% of your final grade. You will receive instructions for each assignment at least **two weeks** before the deadline. Assignments must be 4-6 pages, written in 12 pt. font and double-spaced, with one inch margins and numbered pages. Make

sure that your name and student number appear at the top of the first page. Title pages are not necessary.

Your introductory paragraph *must* include a clear thesis statement. A thesis statement has two main components: i) A clear statement of the position you will take in the paper; and ii) a brief, clear outline of the case you will make in support of that position.

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of **one increment** of a grade per day late (an A becomes an A-), weekends included.

Secondary Sources: You are not expected to consult any secondary sources in writing your assignments. If you do consult any material beyond the required texts, you should do so sparingly and give appropriate citations.

Please retain an electronic copy of all assignments until you receive a final grade for the course.

Quizzes: There are five quizzes in the course, worth a combined total of 10% toward your final grade. All quizzes will be accessible through Canvas.

Final Exam:

The final exam will consist of essay-style questions, for which lectures, course work, and online activities should prepare you.

Course Policies:

In-Term Concession Requests: Arts Students must contact Arts Advising as soon as you are aware you may need an in-term concession. Please review their website for concession criteria as well as process to follow:

<https://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/academic-performance/help-academic-concession/>

Students in other Faculties should contact their Faculty advising office for direction.

Course Work: Failure to complete any major course work (Assignments 1-3; final exam) will result in a grade of F.

Plagiarism: *Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.*

Please consult UBC's Learning Commons website: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/>

Individual Learning Needs:

Students seeking accommodation because of disabilities are asked to contact the instructor as soon as possible. They should also contact the UBC Centre for Accessibility:
<https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>)

Topics and Readings:

Week 1 (Sept. 9): Introduction

Weeks 2-3 (Sept. 14/21): What is piety?; the Socratic method: *Euthyphro* (all) (pp. 1-20)
Quiz #1 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Sept. 21

Week 4 (Sept. 28): Sophistic background; can virtue be taught?; Protagoras' 'Great Speech': *Protagoras* (beginning – 328d) (pp. 746-762, **reading available on Canvas**)
Quiz #2 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Sept. 28

Week 5 (Oct. 5): The unity of the virtues; a methodological dispute: *Protagoras* (328d–338e) (pp. 762-770, **reading available on Canvas**)
Assignment 1 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Oct. 5

Mon., October 12: Thanksgiving Day – University Closed

Week 6 (Oct. 14): Pythagorean background; the immortality of the soul; the philosophical life: *Phaedo* (beginning-70c) (pp. 97-109)
Quiz #3 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Oct. 14

Weeks 7-8 (Oct. 19/26): Is the soul like a harmony?; the theory of forms; Socrates' death: *Phaedo* (82c-107d; 115a-end) (pp. 121-143; 149-152)
Quiz #4 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Oct. 26

Week 9 (Nov. 2): What is justice? Why be just?: *Republic*, Book 2 (beginning-367e) (pp. 270-312)
Assignment 2 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Nov. 2

Wed., November 11: Remembrance Day – University Closed

Week 10 (Nov. 9): The city's origins: *Republic*, Book 2 (368a-376d) (pp. 312-322)

Wed., November 11: Remembrance Day – University Closed

Week 11 (Nov. 16): The tripartite soul; isomorphism of soul and city; an account of justice: *Republic*, Book 4 (419a-445e) (pp. 366-396)
Quiz #5 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Nov. 16

Week 12 (Nov. 23): Tyranny; a contest of lives; the philosopher's pleasures: *Republic*, Book IX (571a-583b) (pp. 521-534)
Assignment 3 due by 11:59pm (Pacific Time) on Mon., Nov. 23

Week 13 (Nov. 30): Review