This course provides an introduction to philosophical ethics and social political thought through the reading of some texts from key moments featuring trials and law cases. Often confrontations between individuals and public law involve arguments that concern the deepest values of a society and its members: some important historical turning points. By immersing ourselves in the thought of each author in turn, we will explore some of the classical issues discussed in ethics, including individual responsibility, the nature of community and social obligations, and the meaning of justice, law and good government.

This class meets in person for two lectures per week plus small group discussion sections. Attendance/participation in discussion is integral to the course forms part of the evaluation.

**Texts (to purchase):**
Available at the UBC bookstore: Grube, *Plato: Five Dialogues*, and Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. Please purchase both these works. Other readings will be made available online through the course Canvas website. Topics for weeks 12 and 13 will be chosen by class vote.

**Class Schedule (subject to minor revision):**

- **Week 1**
  - W Sept 6: Introduction

- **Week 2**
  - MW Sept 11/13: *Apology*
  - F Sept 22nd: First short paper due

- **Week 3**
  - MW Sept 18/20: *Crito*

- **Week 4**
  - MW Sept 25/27: *King, Letter from a Birmingham Jail*
  - F Sept 22nd: Second short paper due

- **Week 5**
  - MW Oct 2/4: *The Case of the Animals Against Humans*

- **Week 6**

- **Week 7**
  - MW Oct 16/18: Galileo, *Letter to Princess Christina*

- **Week 8**

- **Week 9**
  - MW Oct 30/Nov 1: Arendt Chs. 4-6

- **Week 10**
  - MW Nov 6/8: Arendt Ch. 7-8, pp. 171-5.

- **Week 11**

- **Week 12**
  - MW Nov 27/29: class selections

- **Week 13**
  - MW Dec 4/6: class selections

**Evaluation:**

- First short paper: 10%
- Second short paper: 10%
- Third short paper: 15%
- Fourth short paper: 15%
- Literature Exam: 40%
- Discussion participation: 10%

Short papers (600-800 words) offer students a chance to interact philosophically with our texts and to develop the skills of philosophical argument. These should be submitted to your discussion section.
leader via the Canvas website. The literature exam (short answer/identification of passages) is your opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the assigned reading material and mastery of the concepts introduced in lecture.

Policies
Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before class, and to be prepared to discuss course material in discussion sections. Careful reading and re-reading is essential to philosophy; participation in discussions will help students develop ideas for their written essays.

Attendance at lecture and discussion are expected and essential for mastering the course material. Illness and family emergencies are accepted as legitimate reasons for missing class or submitting late assignments; otherwise, late assignments will be penalized at 2% per day.

Accommodations for religious observances or university-sponsored activities should be arranged ahead of time. Students with disabilities are asked to contact Access and Diversity and notify the instructor of any needed accommodations. If you experience difficult circumstances during the term that interfere with your coursework, please feel free to discuss these with the instructor or your tutorial leader. Assistance is available through Counselling Services, Arts Advising and other services.

UBC Policy on Plagarism
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. A link about Academic Misconduct:
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959