Our theme for this exploration of Plato's thought is democracy in crisis. Plato lived at a time when the moral foundations of his community were under threat from the teachings of the Sophists: he offers a striking portrait of his teacher Socrates struggling to articulate a vision of ethics that will speak to the malaise of the times. In an age when our political system is under threat from rhetoric, charismatic demagogues and the reign of 'post truth,' we will consider whether Plato's thought has anything to offer us today.

Text: John Cooper (ed.): *Plato: Complete Works* (Hackett). Please buy this particular volume: read the assigned material before the lecture and bring the text to class. Philosophical writing can be difficult, so be prepared to read slowly, take notes, re-read after lecture. This is a reading-intensive course: the experience of reading the original text is essential to this process.

**Week One**
**W/F** Sept 6/8
Introduction, *Apology*

**Week Two**
**MWF** Sept 11/13/15
*Crito*, Friday topical reading
**First short paper due Tuesday Sept 12th**

**Week Three**
**MWF** Sept 18/20/22
*Laches*

**Week Four**
**MWF** Sept 25/27/29
*Lesser Hippias*, Friday topical reading
**Second short paper due Tuesday Sept 26th**

**Week Five**
**MWF** Oct 2/4/6
*Protagoras*, Friday topical reading

**Week Six**
**MWF** Oct 11/12/13
*Protagoras*, Friday topical reading
**Third short paper due Tuesday October 10th**

**Week Seven**
**MWF** Oct 16/18/20
*Meno*
**Midterm Friday Oct 20th**

**Week Eight**
**MWF** Oct 23/25/27
*Symposium* 172-8, 201D-223D

The soul's journey
Week Nine  MWF  Oct 30/Nov 1/3  Preparing for death
_Phaedo_

Fourth short paper due Tuesday Oct 31st

Week Ten  MWF  Nov 6/8/10  Preparing for death
_Phaedo_, Friday topical reading

Week Eleven  F  Nov 17  Is Justice Real?
_Republic_ Book 1

Week Twelve  MWF  Nov 20/22/24  A Better City?
_Republic_ Books 2-4, Friday topical reading
Optional fifth short paper due Tuesday Nov 21st

Week Thirteen  MWF  Nov 27/29/Dec 1  Philosopher-Kings
_Republic_ 5-7

Week Fourteen MW  Dec 4/6  Imitation and Truth
_Republic_ 10

Grade Distribution:  Four short papers: 40%  Presentations 10%
Midterm: 25%  Final: 25%

This is a reading-intensive, lecture-based course: regular attendance is required. Reading the assigned material ahead of class and bringing the text to class with you for reference are essential for following the material. Philosophical reading is dense and sometimes difficult: expect to read slowly or re-read material!

Students will be asked to write four short position papers (600-800 words), engaging philosophically with a theme from the readings, and to show knowledge of course material on two literature exams. Short presentations in small groups will involve students in the teaching of the _Republic_

Policies:
Plagarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for understanding UBC’s policies on plagiarisim and academic dishonesty. Students seeking accommodation because of a disability or religious observances are encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Late papers will be accepted in the case of illness or family emergencies, at the instructor’s discretion; otherwise a late penalty of 2% per day applies.