


Phil 311 THE PHILOSOPHY OF ARISTOTLE


WINTER TERM 2 2022-23 UBC-Vancouver
Tues/Thurs 11-12.30 (in person), LIFE-2212

Professor: Sylvia Berryman
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OH: T/Th 10-11am Buch E-269


Teaching Assistant:
by appointment

Aristotle stands beside Plato as one of the dominant figures of ancient Greek philosophy and its legacy. His philosophical system offers new answers to problems of continuity through change; causation and the fundamental principles of the natural world; the nature of living beings; the soul, perceiving and thinking; and the goal of human life. In this course, we will approach Aristotle as a systematic thinker studying nature and human nature.

This is a reading-intensive lecture course: focus will be on reading and understanding primary texts from the corpus of Aristotle's works, in English translation. Attendance at lectures is expected. There will be a fair amount of reading, some of it dense. Students should read the assigned chapters before class and bring texts to class: quizzes and the literature final exam will test your knowledge of the course readings.

Texts:  *The Basic Works of Aristotle*, Richard McKeon (ed.)
Additional readings will be posted on the Canvas site for the course.

Readings: (subject to minor revision):

Week One: Jan 7/9 Introduction; The Rejection of Platonism
Nicomachean Ethics 1.6; *Categories* 2, 4&5

Week Two: Jan 14/16 Nature, Causation, Chance
 *Physics* 2.1-8

Week Three: Jan 21/23 Teleology
Physics 2.9, *GC* 2.10-11
Cooper, 'Aristotle on Natural Teleology'

Week Four: Jan 28/30 Teleology
Politics 1; De Las Casas, *In Defense of the Indians* (selection)
Sedley, 'Was Aristotle's Teleology Anthropocentric?'
First short paper due midnight Sunday Feb 2nd

Week Five: Feb 4/6 What Makes the World Go Round?
DC 1.1-4; *Physics* 8.1-5

Week Six: Feb 11/13 Cosmic Order
Metaph. 12.6-7

READING WEEK Feb 17-21

Week Seven: Feb 25/27  Potential/Actual

GC 1.2; *On the Soul* 2.5

Week Eight: Mar 4/6 Investigating Animals

Generation of Animals 1.1, 1.17-23

Johannes Morsinck, 'Was Aristotle's Biology Sexist?'

Week Nine: Mar 11/13 Perceiving, Thinking and the Soul

On the Soul Bks 2-3

Second short paper due Sunday Mar 16th

Week Ten: Mar 18/20 Poetry and the Emotions

Poetics 1.6-14

Week Eleven: Mar 25/27 Action and Choice

Nicomachean Ethics 1&2

Week Twelve: Apr 1/3 Class Choice of topics

Nicomachean Ethics 3.1-5

On Dreams (pp. 618-25)

Week Thirteen: Apr 7 Review

Final Exam at scheduled time during exam period, Apr 12-27th

Evaluation: Students will be asked to write two short papers (1500-1800 words), in-class quizzes and final exam. The best 10 of 12 weekly quizzes will be counted: quizzes will be written at 11am on Tuesdays; late quizzes are only allowed in documented exceptional circumstances. The final examination will ask you to show understanding of the concepts taught in lecture and your understanding of the course readings. Students must be available to take an in-class final at the time scheduled by UBC for this course.

The papers will be thesis papers asking you to interact philosophically with Aristotle's work. Papers not using the specified format will not be accepted for credit. Further guidance will be provided on how to structure your history of philosophy paper closer to the due date.

Grades for coursework will be distributed as follows:

Best 10 quizzes: 30% First paper: 20% 2nd paper: 20% Final: 30%

Classroom Etiquette:

Research supports the view that laptops in class contribute to distractions, both for yourself and those around you; handwriting notes is a better trigger for memory. Writing your own notes rather than collecting/storing notes compiled by the instructor helps students engage actively. While laptops are not banned in my class, I recommend taking notes by hand. If you choose to use them, please refrain from email or accessing sites unrelated to the course. Please don't take photographs in class.

If you contact me, please use my UBC email (above) rather than the Canvas site, which is not regularly monitored. I may not always respond right away on weekends, but try to answer quickly during business

hours. Please use your official UBC email (this avoids junk filters). Please give your full name and mention the course number in the subject line.

Policies: Late papers may be accepted in the case of family emergencies and illness; otherwise penalties apply. Students needing accommodation because of special needs or disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Plagiarism is unacceptable students are responsible for understanding UBC's policies on this. Submitting papers written by someone else or by a machine-programme are considered cheating.

Students with special needs and disabilities are asked to contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate accommodation. Students facing personal difficulties during term are encouraged to seek help (UBC Counselling, AMS Speakeasy), and to contact the instructor if your academic work is interrupted for any reason.

UBC policy on 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. Penalties for plagiarism at UBC range from a '0' or an F on the assignment, to getting a '0' or an F in the course and being reported for academic misconduct. Scholarship 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.

You are welcome to show your drafts to others (including me!) or make use of the Philosophy Department Essay Clinic for feedback. However, *the writing must be your own*. Asking others to re-write rough drafts for you, or relying on electronic chatbots to generate text, are not acceptable. Discussing ideas with others and getting comments on your draft is highly encouraged.