

Philosophy 335: Plato's *Republic*
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:00-10:20
University of Washington
Condon Hall 128B
Spring Quarter 2009
(5 Credits)

Instructor: Jeremy Fischer
Office: Condon 511B
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-12:30; and by appt.
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Course Description and Objectives:

This course will examine Plato's *Republic* in detail, with the aim of finding some unity behind the many subjects investigated (including metaphysics, epistemology, moral psychology, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of education, aesthetics, and philosophy of religion). We will cover one chapter per week, with frequent written assignments in which you will be required to demonstrate an understanding of the text.

Texts:

Plato's *Republic*, translator: C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company; 3rd edition (September 30, 2004).

Sophocles' *Ajax*, translator: John Moore, University of Chicago Press.

Additional Readings will be made available on eReserve.

Assignments and Grades:

There will be a short written assignment due each Monday and Friday (except for the week of May 25th, in which the Monday assignment will be due Wednesday). These assignments will be of varying length and difficulty, and so of varying grade point value. Some will be worth 5 points, some will be worth 10 or 20 points, etc. **Assignments must be typed; you may modify your work during the class during which it is due, though these modifications will not be given full credit. Assignments will not be accepted via email, nor will they be accepted late.** The assignments will typically be directed towards helping you to understand the claims and arguments of the text. Both assignments for any given week will be distributed on the preceding Friday. I encourage you to read each week's text and do the assignments both during the preceding weekend.

There will be a final exam consisting of short essay questions that I will have distributed to you in advance. These questions will address some of the larger themes present in the *Republic*.

Since the *Republic* itself is a dialogue, it makes sense to reward students for engaging with each other and with me during class and office hours. So a part of your final grade will be based upon class participation.

Twenty Short Assignments: 80% of the final grade

Final Exam: 10% of the final grade

Class Participation: 10% of the final grade

% of total points	Guaranteed GPA	% of total points	Guaranteed GPA
94%	4.0	70%	1.9
90%	3.7	65%	1.4
85%	3.2	60%	1.0
80%	2.8	55%	0.7
75%	2.3		

Note: actual GPAs might be higher than what is guaranteed

Student Obligations:

1. Students with disabilities are advised to contact the UW Disabled Student Services at 206-8924/V, 206-543-8925/TTY, 206-616-8379/fax, or uwdss@u.washington.edu. If you have a disability warranting accommodation, please schedule a meeting with me early in the quarter to make arrangements
2. UW Policy on Workload: University of Washington officially expects that, “In general, courses require two hours of homework for every hour of class. So, a 15-credit load should end up taking about 45 hours of time per week” (www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/gettingstarted/basics_reg.php). This might not be required every week in this class, but you should be clear that these are the University’s expectations.
3. You are not to collaborate with any other person on any written work; it is cheating to submit work that is not yours. However you are strongly encouraged to study in groups.
4. Late assignments will not be accepted, and missed exams cannot be made-up except in the case of medical emergency.
5. Appeals of grades can be made in writing, and must give good reasons for reassessment. I will take seriously all serious appeals, and issue you a response in writing.

Schedule of Topics and Readings Philosophy 335: Plato’s *Republic* Spring Quarter 2009

Week 1: Book 1

Monday, March 30th: Introduction, Course Overview.

Wednesday, April 1st: Polemarchus’s Theory of Justice; Socrates’ Objections.

Friday, April 3rd: Thrasymachus’s Theory of Justice; Socrates’ Objections; Dissatisfaction.
Additional Reading: ‘The Melian Dialogue,’ Thucydides’ *Peloponnesian War*.

Week 2: Book 2

Monday, April 6th: Glaucon’s Division of Goods; Glaucon’s Theory of Justice, Adeimantus’s Appeal; Additional Reading: ‘Does Moral Philosophy Rest on a Mistake?’ H.A. Prichard.

Wednesday, April 8th: Socrates Takes the Stage; The Origins of Cities and Justice; The Division of Labor.

Friday, April 10th: Education, Part I: the proper content of stories; On Lying.
Additional Reading: Sophocles’ *Ajax*.

Week 3: Book 3

Monday, April 13th: Education, Part II: the proper style of stories; Education, Part III: the proper songs; Erotic Passion.

Wednesday, April 15th: Education, Part IV: Physical Training and Diet.

Friday, April 17th: Rulers; Departure of Belief; The Noble Lie.
Additional Reading: Popper, *The Open Society and its Enemies*, vol.1, ch. 8, secs. I & II.

Week 4: Book 4

Monday, April 20th: Guardian Happiness; Social Unity; Remarks on Education and Religion.

Wednesday, April 22nd: The Virtues of a Good City: Justice, Temperance, Courage, Wisdom.
Additional Reading: Popper, *The Open Society and its Enemies*, vol.1, ch. 6.

Friday, April 24th: Parts of the Psyche; The Virtues of a Good Person.

Week 5: Book 5

Monday, April 27th: The First Wave; Feminism and Natural Aptitudes.

Wednesday, April 29th: The Second Wave; Lies, Eugenics, and Infanticide; War and Faction; The Possibility of Justice.

Additional Reading: Aristotle, *Politics* II.1-5.

Friday, May 1st: The Third Wave; Forms; Appearance and Reality; Knowledge and Belief

Week 6: Book 6

Monday, May 4th: Philosophers; The Ship of State; The Great Beast.

Wednesday, May 6th: The Good; Rejection of Hedonism; The Sun Analogy.

Friday, May 8th: The Line Analogy.

Week 7: Book 7 and Book 8

Monday, May 11th: The Allegory of the Cave.

Wednesday, May 13th: (Advanced) Education, Part V: Summoners, Math, Astronomy, Music, Dialectic.

Friday, May 15th: Book 8: The Breakdown of the Good City.

Week 8: Book 8

Monday, May 18th: Timocratic Cities and Timocratic People; Oligarchic Cities and Oligarchic People.

Wednesday, May 20th: Democracies; Against Freedom; Necessary and Unnecessary Desires; Democratic Revaluation of Values; Against Equality and Dilettantism.

Friday, May 22nd: Tyrannical Cities and People; Drones. [**Read into Book 8**]

Week 9: Book 9

Monday, May 25th: **Memorial Day Holiday**.

Wednesday, May 27th: The Political Argument for Justice; The Psychological Argument for Justice; The Metaphysical Argument for Justice; Care of the Soul.

Friday, May 29th: The Many-Headed Beast; The Inner Human Being; Common Sense Intuitions; The Ring of Gyges Revisited.

Week 10 Book 10

Monday, June 1st: Forms; Imitation; Painting and Poetry.

Wednesday, June 3rd: Pragmatic Epistemology; The Argument for the Immortality of the Soul.

Friday, June 5th: The Good Consequences of Being Just; The Myth of Er; Heaven and Hell.
Additional Reading: Sachs, 'A Fallacy in Plato's *Republic*.'

*****FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, June 10th, 8:30-10:20am, Condon 128B*****