

University of Central Oklahoma
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Humanities & Philosophy
Summer 2020

PHIL 3990: Plato

CRN:

Time: Arranged

Instructor: Dr. Jerry Green

Email: jgreen67@uco.edu

Phone: 405.974.5612

Office: Liberal Arts 204A

Office Hours: M,T,W,Th 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Course Description:

This course is a survey of Plato. Special focus will be given to (a) Socratic definition and elenchus, (b) the Theory of Forms, and (c) the connection between knowledge and virtue in Platonic thought.

Course Objectives: Students will seek to answer, using critical reasoning, a series of questions about these issues as raised by the course readings, with particular focus on how to provide, defend, and critique the most plausible interpretations of difficult and strange-seeming philosophical positions. In addition, students will engage each other in sustained discussion of these issues. The following are the outcomes a successful student will attain by the end of this course: (1) identify and define key philosophical terms studied in the course, (2) distinguish among the philosophic views studied in the course, (3) identify major points and arguments of various philosophic essays, (4) critically analyze and evaluate philosophic arguments, and (5) provide rationally persuasive arguments in defense of their own beliefs about a variety of controversial issues in philosophy.

Student Learning Objectives:

- 1) Students will begin the process of developing ethical and critical thinking skills necessary for interpreting the self in relation to culture and society.
- 2) Students will read, analyze, and synthesize major texts from the history of philosophy and communicate about them in writing.
- 3) Students will analyze, appraise, and formally symbolize arguments.

Transformational Learning Outcomes: The University of Central Oklahoma is a learning-centered organization committed to Transformative education through active engagement in the teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, global competency, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. Transformative learning goals (the “Central Six”) have been identified as: *Discipline Knowledge*; *Leadership*; *Research*; *Scholarly and Creative Activities*; *Service Learning and Civic Engagement*; *Global and Cultural Competencies*; and *Health and Wellness*.

This course addresses four of the University’s transformative learning goals:

Discipline Knowledge, by investigating some core questions and subfields of philosophy

Global and Cultural Competencies, by performing a sustained investigation of another culture.

Course Materials

We will use the following translations of our primary texts:

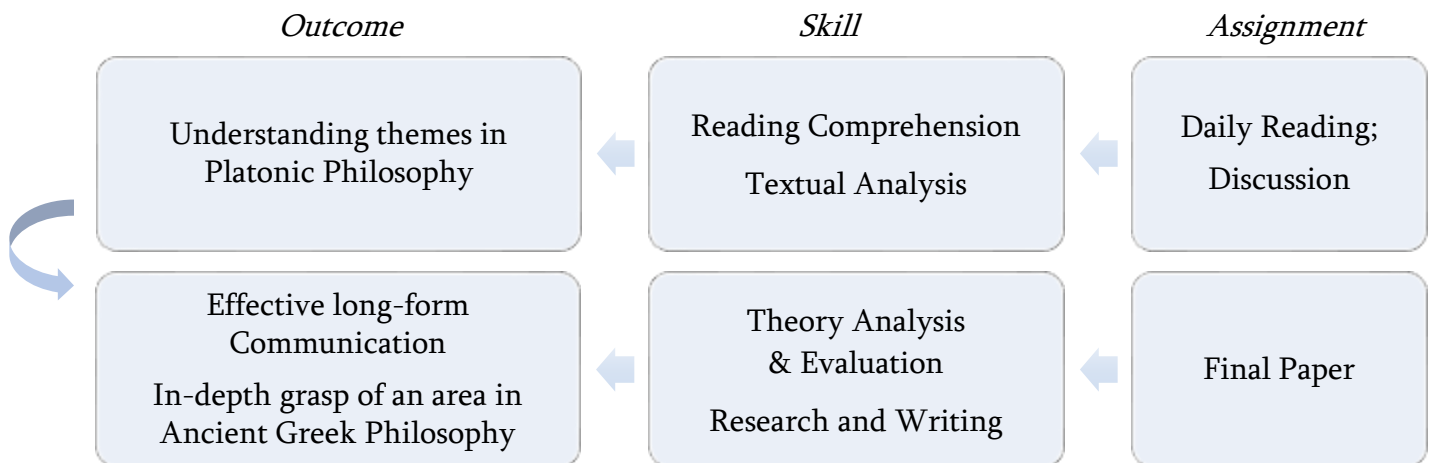
Cooper, John. (1997) *Plato: Complete Works*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co.

You may use other translations, but they should be published by Hackett. You can easily find cheap used copies of most of Plato's texts. I will also post pdfs of journal articles and book chapters to D2L.

Other Resources

[Guide for Reading Philosophy](#) (Jim Pryor, NYU) [Guide for Writing Philosophy](#) (Jim Pryor, NYU)
[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (various) [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (various)
<https://historyofphilosophy.net/> (Peter Adamson, LMU Munich)

Assignments & Learning Outcomes



Reading

This course will be reading-intensive. We will cover a significant amount of very difficult material in a relatively short time.

Meetings

This class will be run as a tutorial, which means that individual student preparation and discussion is very important. It is the student's responsibility to lead the bulk of conversation in each meeting.

Papers

Assignments for this course will be a set of 4 short, tightly focused papers on various themes in Plato. These papers will allow you to discuss different aspects of Plato's philosophy, and also to practice useful philosophical writing skills like formalizing arguments, adjudicating scholarly disputes, and interpreting ambiguous or incomplete texts.

You will also have a short reflection paper at the end of the course, to give you a chance to process what you have learned in the class.

Grades

There are three components to the grade for this course:

Participation: 15%

Papers: 80%

Reflection: 5%

Participation means both regularly attending scheduled discussion sessions *and* being prepared to take the lead on a lengthy, in-depth conversation about the day's material. This course will run more as a tutorial than a lecture, so it is the student's responsibility to make discussion sessions worthwhile.

Academic Honesty

Given that much of this course is devoted to intellectual and moral virtues, it should be no surprise that it also has high standards for academic conduct. You are expected to consult and understand the University's Academic Dishonesty Policy (<http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>); participation in this class constitutes an agreement to follow this policy.

My own policy is this: it is always better to ask for help than to cheat. Always. Cheating takes more work, with worse results, than simply attempting the assignment, even if you phone it in. If you are confused at any point about whether something constitutes academic dishonesty, ask. I am here to help. However, if you are caught engaging in academic misconduct, I will pursue whatever maximum penalties the University may apply, from a 0 to an assignment to an F for the course to expulsion from the University. Don't try it.

Note that UCO subscribes to the Turnitin.com plagiarism prevention service. Students, by taking this course, agree that all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com restricted access reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such assignments. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com website. Turnitin.com is just one of the various plagiarism prevention tools and methods that may be utilized by your instructor during the semester. The UCO Student Handbook describes the process for contesting allegations of plagiarism.

Tech Policy

Computers, tablets, e-readers, etc., will not be allowed during class time. I know it sounds paternalistic (it is) and lame (it isn't), but computers in class do [much more harm than good](#).

Three main reasons for this policy:

- 1) You might think you can multi-task well. [You are incorrect](#). Even if you were miraculously among the 2% of good multi-taskers, you would still distract those around you.
- 2) Electronic texts are much [less effective](#) than paper for the kind of reading we'll be doing.
- 3) [It is well-documented that taking](#) notes by hand is much more effective than typing. If you want a digital version of your notes, scan them or, better, type them out after class.

So, unless you have an accommodation from DSS (see below), no electronic devices in class.

Reasonable Accommodations Policy

Any student who needs extra time or resources to do their best work due to a physical, cognitive or emotional condition may qualify for academic accommodations. You should consult Disability Support Services for further information: <http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/dss/>

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516 (V/TTY). The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible.

A bit of advice: *do not let shyness or embarrassment or pride stop you from getting the services you deserve.* I've seen too many students allow their grades to suffer because they didn't speak up to claim the accommodations they were entitled to. I will do everything I can to make sure that your accommodations stay between you, me, and DSS.

Title IX

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at (405) 974-3377 or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D. For more information about your options, including reporting and confidential resources, please visit:

<http://www.uco.edu/central/title-ix/index.asp>.

Physical and Mental Health

College can be a very stressful time, emotionally, socially, and academically. You don't have to face these stresses alone. There are numerous resources on campus to help, including:

<http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/scc/>

<http://sites.uco.edu/wellness/shc/>

Student Information Sheet

More important info here: <http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>

Schedule (Subject to Revision)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text</u>
Week 1: Historical Background	<i>Apology, Theages</i>
Week 2: Socratic Elenchus	<i>Euthyphro, Ion, Hippias Minor, Crito</i>
Week 3: Socratic Definition	<i>Laches, Charmides</i>
Week 4: Philosophy vs. Rhetoric	<i>Gorgias</i>
Week 5: Virtue & Knowledge	<i>Protagoras</i>
Week 6: Sources of Knowledge	<i>Meno, Phaedo</i>
Week 7: The Beautiful	<i>Hippias Major, Symposium</i>
Week 8: The Good	<i>Republic VI-VII, X</i>

Final Exam Date: Tuesday, July 28th