

PHL 5313: Soul and Immortality in Plato
Spring 2017
M,W 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm
Dale Tower 607

Instructor: Jerry Green
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Hours: T,Th 10 am-12 pm

Overview

This course is meant to provide students with an in-depth introduction to the philosophy of Plato. It is impossible to treat the entire Platonic corpus with the attention it deserves in a single class; indeed, this is difficult to do even with only a single dialogue. Instead, we will focus on one topic, and let that topic guide us through a number of Plato's works. The topic will be 'The Soul and Immortality in Plato'. We will investigate what model (or models) of the soul Plato endorses throughout the corpus, and what ramifications this has for his view(s) on immortality. We will read excerpts from many of Plato's works: *Apology*, *Meno*, *Phaedo*, *Phaedrus*, *Symposium*, *Republic*, *Philebus*, *Timaeus*, *Laws*, and likely others. This will also allow us to ask questions about Plato's philosophical development and the unity or disunity of his views across works. This course will also address methodological issues involved in work in the history of philosophy.

Required Texts

For primary texts, we will use the Hackett translations throughout. I have ordered Cooper's *Complete Works of Plato* at the OU bookstore, and you can likely find cheaper used copies online. You may also purchase the relevant texts individually, so long as it is from Hackett. The one exception to this policy is *Laws*: Trevor Saunter's Penguin edition is standard.

For secondary texts, I will post pdfs to Canvas whenever possible. When not possible, I will put the relevant book on reserve at the library.

Course Work: All

Participation

All students are required to attend and fully participate at least 27 of the 29 scheduled meetings for this course. This will be a small course centered on class discussion, not lecture, so it is incumbent on each student to not only be present, but to engage in discussion with their peers in an informed and academically responsible way. This requires sustained, consistent preparation for each meeting. Participation will be worth 5 points of the final grade. Failure to attend the requisite number of classes without making prior arrangements with me will result in an automatic 0 for this portion of the grade. Repeated failure to contribute responsibly to class discussion will also result in an automatic 0 for this portion of the grade.

Reading

For each meeting, you will have an excerpt from a primary text that is required reading. However, I encourage you to read the entire primary text whenever you can (except *Laws*: too long). Though we will concentrate on specific arguments, it is often impossible to fully understand what Plato is up to without some appreciation of the entire work in which that argument is found. I have also listed two secondary texts for each meeting. These are not required, but you should read as much of as many of them as you can, not only to help understand Plato, but to get a sense of what Plato scholarship looks like. You will also use these secondary texts for your review papers and presentations.

Review Papers & Presentations

Every student will be required to write two article reviews.¹ In addition, every student will give a short presentation (c. 5-10 minutes) on one of these article reviews to the class on the day that reading is assigned (presentation on the second review is encouraged, but not required). This means that article reviews must be completed in advance of the class for which they are assigned. Each article review is worth 5 points of the final grade (10 pts total); the presentation is worth an additional 5 points.

Course Work: Tracks

Given that there are many goals one might have in taking this class, it is appropriate to allow for a range of assignments that satisfy those goals. To that end, I have designed three tracks with different kinds of work aimed at these goals.

AoS Track

This track is meant for students who intend to claim Ancient Philosophy as an Area of Specialization (i.e. an area in which they plan to write their dissertation or publish independent research). This track has three requirements:

1. An APA style 20 minute presentation, based on a 3000 word paper. (20 pts)
2. An APA style 5-10 minute comment on another student's presentation. (10 pts)
3. A final paper, 5000-8000 words, based on the 3000 earlier draft (50 pts)

AoC Track

This track is meant for students who intend to claim Ancient Philosophy as an Area of Competence (i.e. an area in which they can teach upper-division courses on short notice). This track has two requirements:

1. Two detailed course syllabi, one for a lower-division ancient survey, one for an upper-division ancient course on a specialized topic or figure. (2 x 15 pts)
2. Two 20-30 minute in-class lectures, where you will have the primary responsibility for delivering course content for the class. You may make expanded article review presentations, or you can cover the primary text instead. (2 x 25 pts)

Exam Track

This track is meant for students who don't have a research or teaching interest in Ancient, but are instead taking this course to satisfy a course distribution requirement or prepare for an MA or PhD exam. This track has two requirements:

1. One additional article review as described above (5 pts total)
2. Three written exams, centered on ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology respectively. Note that these answers will require some additional reading outside of what we cover in class. (3 x 25 pts)

The schedule for these assignments will be determined once enrollment is finalized and course tracks have been assigned.

Note: If you are also enrolled in PHL 5313 this semester, you may not claim the AoC track for both courses. But you can do the AoS or Exam tracks for both if you wish. If you are taking this course as an undergrad, I recommend the Exam track, but you can meet with me to make the case that you're ready for the AoS track instead.

¹ I will provide details about this assignment in a separate handout.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that any work you do in this course is the result of your academic efforts. University policies on academic dishonesty can be found [here](#). You are expected to be familiar with these policies; ignorance is not an excuse. In particular, you are required to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Serious failures to maintain academic integrity in this course will result in the maximum possible penalty. At the very least, you will receive no credit for the assignment and be referred to Student Judicial Services for further review. Depending on the severity on the infraction, you could receive an F for the course, or be suspended or expelled from OU. Don't risk it.

Reasonably Accommodation Policy

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html> Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

If you need to make special accommodations in this course, let me know **immediately**. And 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 when they should have. Your request will remain anonymous.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, the University offers a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405/325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or smo@ou.edu. Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU Advocates at 405/615-0013 (phones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to: Bobby J. Mason, University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at 405/325-3546 or bjm@ou.edu. For more information, see [here](#).

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see [here](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

Religious Observance

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty. [\[See Faculty Handbook 3.15.2\]](#). If you have a religious holiday during the Fall semester, let me know **immediately** so we can schedule around it.

*** If you take this course, you thereby agree to follow all course policies outlined here. ***

Reading Schedule

1.18: Course Overview

Syllabus

[Adamson \(2016\) "All 20 Rules for the History of Philosophy"](#)

1.23: Plato

Nails (2002) *The People of Plato, ad loc*

Schofield (2009) "Plato in his Time and Place"

1.25: The Platonic Corpus

Irwin (2009) "The Platonic Corpus"

Rowe (2007) *Plato and the Art of Philosophical Writing, Intro*

1.30: The Soul

Phaedo
(79a-88d)

Taylor (1983) The Arguments ... that the Soul is a Harmonia"

Bostock (1986) *Plato: Phaedo*, Chs. V-VI

2.1: "

"

Boys-Stones, George (2004) "Phaedo of Elis and Plato on the Soul"

Broadie, Sarah (2001) "Soul and Body in Plato and Descartes"

2.6: "

Phaedrus
(245c-256e)

Ferrari (1985) "The Struggle in the Soul: Plato, *Phaedrus* 253c7-255a1"

Hackforth (1985) *Plato's Phaedrus*, Ch. 9

2.8: "

"

Belfiore (2006) "Dancing with the Gods-The Myth of the Chariot ..."

Carelli (2015) "Psychic Representation in Plato's *Phaedrus*"

2.13: "

Republic
(367e-376d)

Williams (1999) "The Analogy of City and Soul in Plato's *Republic*"

Smith (1999) "Plato's Analogy of Soul and State"

2.15: "

(427d-445b)

Lorenz (2006) *The Brute Within* Pt. I

Shields (1994) "Plato's Divided Soul"

2.20: "

(543a-592b)

Brown (2012) "The unity of the soul in Plato's *Republic*"

Whiting (2012) "Psychic Contingency in the *Republic*"

2.22: "

Philebus
(28c-35c)

Harte (2014) "Desire, Memory, and the Authority of the Soul"

Mason, Andrew (2014) "On the Status of *Nous* in the *Philebus*"

Moss (2012) "Pictures and passions in the *Timaeus* and *Philebus*"

2.27: "

(38e-41e)
(47c-48b)

Griswold (1981) "Soul, Form, and Indeterminacy in Plato's *Philebus*"

Dillon & Brisson (eds) (2010) *Symposium Platonicum VIII* entries

3.1: No Class

3.6: "

Timaeus
(31b-37c)

Johansen (2004) *Plato's Natural Philosophy*, Ch. 7

Menn (1995) "Plato on God as *Nous* 1-4, 6-7"

3.8: "

(41d-47e)
(81e-92c)

Robinson (1990) "The Tripartite Soul in the *Timaeus*"

Lautner (2011) "Plato's Account of the Diseases of the Soul in *Timaeus*"

3.13: No Class (Spring Break)

3.15: No Class (Spring Break)

3.20: Immortality

Apology
(38c-42a)

Reeve (1989) *Socrates in the Apology*, 3.11

Austin (2010) "Prudence and the Fear of Death in Plato's *Apology*"

3.22: "

Phaedo
(70a-88d)

Bostock (1999) "The Soul and Immortality"

Apolloni (1996) "Plato's Affinity Argument for the immortality of the soul"

3.27: "

(89d-106a)

Frede (1978) "The Final Proof of the Immortality of the Soul in Plato's *Phaedo*"

Pakaluk (2003) "Degrees of Separation in the *Phaedo*"

3.29:

Phaedrus
(245c-256e)

Bett (2001) "Immortality and the Nature of the Soul in Plato's *Phaedrus*"

Robinson (1971) "The Argument for Immortality in Plato's *Phaedrus*"

4.3: "

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Blyth (1997) "The Ever-Moving Soul in Plato's *Phaedrus*"

Brisson (2011) "The mortal parts of the soul, or Death as forgetting the body"

4.5: "

Symposium
(201d-212d)

Hooper (2012) "The Memory of Virtue"

Gerson (2006) "A Platonic Reading of Plato's *Symposium*"

- 4.10: “ *Republic* (608c-621d) Brown (1997) "A Defense of P's Argument for the Immortality of the Soul"
Austin (2016) "Legislating Immortality in Plato's *Republic*"
- 4.12: “ “ Annas (1982) "Plato's Myth of Justice"
Woolf (2012) "How to see an unencrusted soul"
- 4.17: “ *Laws* (892b-896b) Brisson (2012) "Soul and State in Plato's *Laws*"
Bobonich (2002) *Plato's Utopia Recast*, Chs. 3-4
- 4.19: “ (896b-907a) Scolnicov & Brisson (2003) *Symposium Platonicum* VI entries
- 4.24: TBA
- 4.26: Presentations
- 5.1: Presentations
- 5.3: Presentations