

Plato's *Republic* LPHI 3006-A
Eugene Lange College, Philosophy
Friday, 12:10-2:50pm. 65 w11th st. 258
Jan. 31-May 16 2014
Prof. Darren Gardner
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Office hours by appointment

Course Description: The *Republic* is a considered a master work of Plato, full of provocation, mystery and excitement. This dialogue explores notions of justice, kingship, and polity, but moreover provokes investigations into foundational philosophical topics concerning ethics, the soul, metaphysics and politics. Many view the *Republic* as an utopian political text, others as an ethical text, still others as an ironic text. With close and sensitive study we will explore these themes with an eye also towards seeing how this text in fact resists being simply reduced to dogmatic themes and claims.

Expectations: We will maintain a productive and open environment for discussion. This environment will be completely free from cell phone interruptions and use, ipads, tablets, laptops, and other computers.

Only excuse yourself from the class for an emergency, if you absolutely must use the restroom, leave as quietly as possible and enter as quietly as possible.

No late attendance.

The seminar is for all participants and you will be graded on participation - this means that you should not only speak, but also let others speak. Both speaking and listening will be part of your assessment as participants in this seminar.

All students must read the assignments. Philosophy is difficult, take your time, **read twice**.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated for any assignment. See Academic Honesty Policy.

All students are required to obtain the text listed below. Only this translation may be used in class. If you wish to read another version outside of class, that is your pleasure. The text for each assignment **must** be with you in class. Texts are available at Barnes and Noble on 18th Street and Fifth Ave. Feel free to order from Amazon, or any other retailer.

Required Text:

Plato *Republic*: Tran. Sachs. Focus Publishing 2007

Additional readings may be given and will be provided through Canvas.

Schedule (subject to changes based on class progress):

- Week 1 - Jan 31: Introduction
- Week 2 - Feb 7: Book 1 & Lysias: *Against Eratosthenes*
- Week 3 - Feb 14: Book 2
- Week 4 - Feb 21: Book 3
- Week 5 - Feb 28: Book 4
- Week 6 - March 7: Book 4-5
- Week 7 - March 14: Book 5
- Week 8 - March 21: **No Class**
- Week 9 - April 4: Book 5-6
- Week 10 - April 11: Book 6-7
- Week 11 - April 18: Book 7
- Week 12 - April 25: Book 8
- Week 13 - May 2: Book 9
- Week 14 - May 9: Book 10
- Week 15 - May 16: Open discussion

Assignments and Grading:

This seminar will require two papers. 1st 5 page paper due: March 28 . 2nd 7 page paper due May 16. Paper lengths indicate the *minimum* required for an A. Students that have gone to the learning center (previously known as the writing center) for a consultation and edit will be given a modest bonus on the paper grade. I encourage all students to take advantage of the learning center.

A detailed outline of the *Republic* is required of each student. This outline should detail at least (1) the issues of argument at hand, (2) who is speaking, (3) when a dramatic action such as a change of interlocutor occurs, and (4) the structure of the dialogue. Line numbers must be included. It is recommended that each chapter outline be submitted the week following the discussion of that chapter. Outlines for each chapter must collectively have be submitted by May 9.

Additionally, students are required to submit questions for each seminar reading assignment. Questions should attempt to locate what you think is a philosophical issue in that particular section of text. Questions should reflect a potential opening question for the seminar to consider, that is, a question that will thoughtfully bring about a productive discussion of the text assigned that session. Questions are to be submitted on paper at the beginning of class for each corresponding reading assignment. Questions will not be accepted during the middle of class, after class, or through email. Students have 2 free passes for questions, missing more than 2 will reflect a lesser grade. Questions will be graded as “check plus” “check” and “check -”.

Final Grades:

- 2 Papers - each 20% of the final grade
- Outline - 20%
- Questions submitted for each reading - 15%
- Class participation -25%

Attendance:

This course is a seminar, and as such, the members of the seminar are expected to attend and participate as equal members with equal responsibility. Attendance is a *major* requirement. Students who miss more than 2 unexcused classes will be subject to diminished grades. Students who miss more than 4 unexcused classes mandate a failing grade for the course, unless absences are due to a medical issue, family emergency, religious holiday etc. Furthermore, lateness is disrespectful to all seminar participants, please do not come late to class, and do not depart before we have concluded the seminar.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop critical reading and discussion skills by investigating foundational philosophy texts.
2. Students will develop the skill to locate, articulate, and investigate philosophical questions.
3. Students will develop their writing in collaboration with critical reading through the seminar.
4. Students will develop a sensitivity to philosophical investigations in antiquity.
5. Students will develop a sensitivity to the connection of philosophical inquiry in the ancient tradition to politics, education, and self-cultivation.

Student Disability Service

“In keeping with the university’s policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student with a disability who needs academic accommodations is welcome to meet with me privately. All conversations will be kept confidential. Students requesting any accommodations will also need to contact Student Disability Service (SDS). SDS will conduct an intake and, if appropriate, the Director will provide an academic accommodation notification letter for you to bring to me. At that point, I will review the letter with you and discuss these accommodations in relation to this course.” <http://www.newschool.edu/student-services/student-disability-services/>