

**Philosophy 3321: Classical Greek Philosophy**  
**Fall 2017**  
**Section H02: Tue/Thu 12:30-1:50pm**  
**Eng/Phil 163**

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**Course Description**

This class we will investigate Ancient Greek Philosophy by closely studying Plato's *Republic* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. These books, perhaps more than any others, invented philosophy as it is practiced in the West. By diving deep into these masterpieces, students will grapple with fundamental question about the nature of justice and the nature of happiness.

Writing Intensive Requirement: This class fulfills the writing intensive requirement. "The fundamental objective of a writing intensive course is for students to write often and receive critical review from the course instructor. Students should be required to rewrite, based on the instructor's critique." TTU course catalog.

**Required Texts**

- (1) Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*. Focus Philosophical Library, Joe Sachs translation.
- (2) Plato, *Republic*. Basic Books. Allan Bloom translation.

NOTE: there are a lot of different translations of these works. We will be working very closely with the text so it is very important to get the right translation.

**Students With Disabilities**

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Students should present appropriate verification from AccessTECH in the Student Counseling Center in West Hall. To preserve confidentiality, you may ask to speak to me in private, or notify me by email.

**Academic Integrity**

I refer all infractions to Student Judicial Programs without exception. Please familiarize yourself with TTU's statement on academic integrity and come speak with me if you have any questions:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentjudicialprograms/academicinteg.php#>

Plagiarism is the most common integrity violation that I encounter, and in many of these cases, the student claims that she was unaware that what she was doing counted as plagiarism. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents someone else's work as her own, whether this work comes from a friend, a printed source, or the internet. This means that plagiarism can never occur if something is properly cited because then it is not presented as your own. Changing a few words does not preclude plagiarism. If you have any questions about plagiarism please see me.

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is required. Please come to class on time and prepared. Each student is allowed 3 absences for the entire semester. I will assume that your reason for missing class is a serious one so there is no need to email me to explain. However, any absence after the 3<sup>rd</sup> will lead to a penalty of 1/3 of a letter grade to your overall class grade for each day missed. For example, if you miss 4 days but have aced the entire class, your grade will drop from an A to an A-, if you miss 5 days it will drop to a B+, etc. If you have an excused absence please bring supporting documentations.

**Tardiness:** Attendance will be taken when I arrive in class. If you arrive after I call your name, you will be marked late. Being late three times amounts to an absence.

### **Lecture Dos and Don'ts**

**Do** the reading before class.

**Do** bring your book to lecture.

**Do** buy your book ASAP.

**Do** listen to each other and not just me.

Exercise 3 to leave the class.)

**Don't** use your laptops or Ipads to take notes unless you are sitting in the front row.

### **Assignments:**

**“Sword drills”-** In the beginning of the semester there will be 5 “sword drills”. In this drill, I will read out a few passages from the *Republic*. You will have 30 seconds to find the passage and write down the page number. If you average above a 66% on these quizzes then you get an A on for the take-home midterm and you do not have to take it. If not, then you have to take it. If you get a perfect, on all of them, then you can replace one of your writing exercise grades with an A. Towards the end, there will be opportunities to do extra drills to make up for past mistakes.

### **Writing Exercises and Writing Labs—**

This is a writing intensive course. This means that there are really two parts to the class. The first is to think about Plato and Aristotle, but the second is to work on and improve your philosophical writing. To this end, you will be writing every other week. Many of these exercises are short, but doing them well will take time. There will be 7 such writing exercises. Below I have briefly described what these writing exercises will entail. I will explain them more in detail during the writing labs which will occur the Thursday before the exercise is due.

Exercise 1: Come up with a clear and contestable thesis.

Exercise 2: Come up with a clear and contestable thesis and then come up with supporting textual evidence for this thesis.

Exercise 3: Take a passage in Plato (which will be announced), and re-write it just with the argument.

Exercise 4: Write a short paper (1-2)

Exercise 5: Find an article on Plato's *Republic* from the library or online. Find a paragraph that you think is poorly written and rewrite it more clearly.

Exercise 6: Turn in a 3-5 page paper which describes your own virtue in the way Aristotle describes one of his virtues.

Exercise 7: Turn in a draft of your final paper for “peer review”.

### **Final Paper.**

The final paper is 6-8 pages double spaced.

### **Take home midterm (if necessary)**

Those of you who do not get a 66% or higher on the “sword drills” will have to take a take home midterm. You will have a week to answer several essay questions on the *Republic*.

### **Grading**

Midterm or Sword drills	25%
Writing Exercises 1-5, 7	5% each = 30%
Writing Exercise 6	10%
Final Paper	35%

## Schedule of Readings

Abbreviations and symbols

Week	Dates	To Be Discussed	Assignment
I	Au 29, 31	<i>The Republic</i> , Book I	Read <i>The Republic</i> , Books I-III
II	Sep 5, 7	<i>The Republic</i> , Book II Writing Lab – Sep 7	Read <i>The Republic</i> , Books IV- VII Prepare for “Sword Drill” on Books I-II
III	Sep 12, 14	<i>The Republic</i> , Book III	Read <i>The Republic</i> , Books VIII- X Writing exercise #1- come up with a thesis statement
IV	Sep 19, 21	<i>The Republic</i> , Book IV Writing Lab – Sep 21	Prepare for “Sword Drill” on Books I-IV
V	Sep 26, 28	<i>The Republic</i> , Book V	Writing exercise #2-evidence
VI	Oct 3, Oct 5	<i>The Republic</i> , Book VI Writing Lab – Oct 5	Prepare for “Sword Drill” on Books I-VI
VII	Oct 10, 12	<i>The Republic</i> , Book VII	Writing exercise #3-Outlining an argument
VIII	Oct 17, 19	<i>The Republic</i> , Book VIII Writing Lab- Oct 19	Prepare for “Sword Drill” on Books I-VIII
IX	Oct 24, 26	<i>The Republic</i> , Book IX	Writing exercise #4—short paper 1-2 pages
X	Oct 31, Nov 2	<i>The Republic</i> , Book X Writing Lab –Nov 2	Prepare for “Sword Drill” on Book I – X
XI	Nov 7, 9	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books I-II	Take home midterm.
XII	Nov 14, 16	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books III-IV Writing Lab- Nov 16	Writing exercise #5—exercise on clear prose.
XIII	Nov 21	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VI	Writing Exercise #6—your own virtue 4-6 pages
XIV	Nov 28, 30	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books VII-VIII Writing Lab – Nov 30th	Writing exercise #7—draft of final paper.
XV	Dec 5	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books IX	
XVI	<b>Dec 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE 6-8 pages</b>	<b>Due December 11<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm.</b>