

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 4121 PLATO AND ARISTOTLE**

(Updated Fall 2022)

**UK LEVEL: 6**  
**UK CREDITS: 15**  
**US CREDITS: 3/0/3**

**PREREQUISITES:**

PH 1000 Introduction to Philosophy **or**  
 PH 2020 Greek Philosophy

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Critical and comparative analyses of their philosophical positions about issues such as the nature of reality, the sources of knowledge, the purpose of human life, the ideal polity, and the function of art. Understanding of their divergence in views, philosophical style, and methodology. A close examination of selected texts.

**RATIONALE:**

This course offers an in-depth view of the two originators of all subsequent philosophical thought. It also includes a method of systematic elaboration from original texts in translation.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Interpret the meaning of the Platonic texts and the use of dialectic as it develops from the early to the middle dialogues using advanced research skills.
2. Critically evaluate Aristotle's critique of Plato and the Platonists.
3. Interpret and evaluate the basic doctrines of both Plato and Aristotle on logic, epistemology, metaphysics, psychology, ethics and politics.
4. Elaborate on the significance of Plato's and Aristotle's thought in the context of Greek philosophy and the main trends of their contribution to philosophy in general.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures and class discussions of primary sources as well as of contemporary articles assigned by the lecturer.
- Office hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can discuss the course material.
- Use of a Blackboard site, where lecturers can post lecture notes assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.
- Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for their research paper as well as for preparation for the final assessment.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Summative:

First Assessment: Midterm Examination (take-home assessment) – Essay-type questions	40%
Final Assessment: Research paper (3,000-3,500 words) – Literature	

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>review/Interpretation of texts/Evaluation</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Class presentation (individual or group)/or home assignment</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative assessment aims to prepare students for both summative assessments.</p> <p>The first assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1 and 2. The final assessment tests learning Outcomes 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</p>	review/Interpretation of texts/Evaluation	60%	Class presentation (individual or group)/or home assignment	0%		
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Class presentation (individual or group)/or home assignment	0%						
<p><b>INDICATIVE READING:</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b> Ackrill, J.L., ed. <u>A New Aristotle Reader</u>. Princeton University Press, latest edition.</p> <p>Hamilton, Edith and Huntington Cairns, eds. <u>Plato: Collected Dialogues</u>. Princeton University Press, latest edition.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b> Ackrill, J.L. <u>Essays on Plato and Aristotle</u>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.</p> <p>Anton, JP &amp; Preus, A (ed.). <u>Essays in Ancient Philosophy, IV</u>, Albany, 1991.</p> <p>Barnes, J. <u>Aristotle Posterior Analytics</u>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1975.</p> <p>Barnes, J, Schofield, M, &amp; Sorabji, R (eds.). <u>Articles on Aristotle. Vol.2: Ethics and Politics</u>. London, 1975. ..... <u>Articles on Aristotle, vol.3: Metaphysics</u>, London, 1977. ..... <u>Articles on Aristotle, vol.4: Psychology and Aesthetics</u>. London, 1979.</p> <p>Blondell, R. <u>The play of Character in Plato's Dialogues</u>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.</p> <p>Broadie, A. <u>Ethics with Aristotle</u>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.</p> <p>Charles, D. <u>Aristotle's Philosophy of Action</u>. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.</p> <p>Cohen de Lara, Emma &amp; Brouwer, Rene. <i>Aristotle's Practical Philosophy: On the Relationship between Ethics and Politics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University</p>						

Press, 2017.

Cooper, JM. Reason and Human Good in Aristotle. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1986.

Destree, Pierre & Giannopoulou, Zina, eds. *On Plato's Symposium: A Critical Guide*. Cambridge Critical Studies Series. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Devin, Henry and Nielsen, Karen Margrethe. Bridging the Gap between Aristotle's Science and Ethics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. The Idea of the Good in Platonic Aristotelian Philosophy. U.S.A: Yale University, 1986.

Griswold, C (ed.) Platonic Writings and Platonic Readings. U.S.A., 1999.

Jimenez, Erick Raphael. *Aristotle's Concept of Mind*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Irwin, T. Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethic: Commentary and translation, Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1985.

Kahn, C. Plato and the Socratic Dialogue. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Kenny, A. Aristotle on the perfect life. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.

Kraut, R. Aristotle: Political Philosophy. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2002.

Mackenzie, MM. Plato on Punishment University of California Press, 1981.

Miller, Jon. The Reception of Aristotle's Ethics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

O'Meara, Dominic J. *Cosmology and Politics in Plato's Later Works*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

O'Rourke, Fran. *Aristotelian Interpretations*. Irish Academic Press, 2016.

Reeve, CDC. Practices of Reason (Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics), Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992.

Rorty, AO (ed.). Essays on Aristotle's Ethics. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980.

Sherman, N. The Fabric of character: Aristotle's theory of virtue, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989.

<p><b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p><i>Ancient Philosophy</i> <i>Nous</i> <i>Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy</i> <i>Phronesis</i> <i>Plato</i> <i>Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society</i> <i>Review of Metaphysics</i> <i>The Classical Journal</i> <i>The Monist</i> <i>The Southern Journal of Philosophy</i></p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>-Class discussion and textual analysis in professional English -Research paper submitted in Word</p>
<p><b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b></p>	<p>Microsoft Word</p>
<p><b>WWW RESOURCES:</b></p>	<p><a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html">http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html</a> <a href="http://www.archelogos.com">http://www.archelogos.com</a> <a href="http://www.hippias.com">http://www.hippias.com</a></p>
<p><b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction: The context of Greek philosophy</li> <li>2. Discussion of fundamental ethical questions that Plato raises in his 'early' dialogues.       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Excerpts from the <u>Apology</u>, <u>Laches</u>, <u>Euthyphro</u>, etc.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Analysis of the Platonic theory of forms from an epistemological, as well as from an ontological point of view.       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. Excerpts from the <u>Theaetetus</u>.</li> <li>3.2. Excerpts from the <u>Republic</u>, <u>Phaedo</u>. Emphasis on the discussion of moral leadership in the <i>Republic</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Discussion of the role of the 'late' dialogues as critiques or elaborations of the constructive doctrines of the 'middle' dialogues.       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Excerpts from the <u>Symposium</u>, <u>Philebus</u>.</li> <li>4.2. Excerpts from the <u>Laws</u>. Emphasis on Plato's Philosophy of Law and Punishment.</li> <li>4.3. Excerpts from the <u>Cratylus</u>.</li> <li>4.4. Excerpts from the <u>Timaeus</u>.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Analysis of Aristotle's critique of the Platonic doctrines.</li> <li>6. Analysis of Aristotle's doctrine of 'causality' (the four causes). Excerpts from the <i>Physics</i>.</li> <li>7. Analysis of Aristotle's doctrine of 'ousia'. Excerpts from the <i>Metaphysics</i>.</li> <li>8. Analysis of Aristotle's logic and theory of knowledge. Emphasis on <i>Posterior Analytics B19</i>.</li> <li>9. Analysis of Aristotle's psychological views.       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1. His views on the mind-body issue (<u>De Anima</u>, <u>De Generatione Animalium</u>, <u>De sensu</u>).</li> </ol> </li> <li>10. Analysis of Aristotle's fundamental ethical doctrines. Discussion of the impact of these views on contemporary moral philosophy.       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.1. Excerpts from the <u>Nicomachean and Eudemian Ethics</u>.</li> </ol> </li> <li>11. Discussion of Aristotle's views on education and the best constitution (excerpts from <u>Politics</u>).</li> <li>12. Reception of the Aristotelian philosophy in contemporary thought.</li> </ol>