

**PHIL2613: PLATO & ARISTOTLE**  
**SEMESTER 2, 2007**  
**A/Prof. E. "Rick" Benitez**  
**UNIT OF STUDY OUTLINE**

*Description:*

An examination of the major philosophical themes to be found in the works of Plato and Aristotle, with close attention to a few central works. The course emphasises understanding the ways these philosophers think rather than learning a body of doctrine. Main readings for Plato will be *Meno*, *Phaedo*, *Parmenides*. For Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, *Poetics*, *Physics*.

*Aims and Goals*

This unit of study will introduce students to two of the most influential philosophers in the West, Plato and Aristotle. One aim of the course is to help students to place these thinkers in a philosophical context or tradition. Another is to help students to be able to compare and contrast the different perspectives of these philosophers. This course will challenge students to raise questions about the nature and practice of philosophy, and about the relation of different kinds of philosophical questions to each other. Generically, this unit of study should not only impart new knowledge (especially new ways of looking at things), but enhance critical and latitudinal thinking skills, and enhance ethical awareness and commitment to truth.

*Learning Commitments*

Students are expected to attend lectures and tutorials weekly. Participation in tutorials is crucial to the development of specific and generic skills listed above.

*Learning Situations*

One two-hour lecture per week, plus one one-hour tutorial per week. Fisher Special Reserve, general library and internet resources will be available to students. Independent study is an expected part of student preparation, particularly for the essay.

*Learner Preparation*

Prerequisites: PHIL 1010 and PHIL 1011 or the equivalent. Assigned readings from the course reader should be perused *before* the associated lecture.

*Student Learning Outcomes*

Students will be able to read Plato and Aristotle with understanding and perception. Students will be able to see the influence of Plato and Aristotle in the history of philosophy and in current philosophical practice. Students will sharpen critical and latitudinal thinking skills, develop ability to think abstractly and formally, and have a better appreciation of the importance of ethical thinking.

*Unit of Study Weekly Outline*

Week	Topic	Readings
1.	<b>Plato's World</b>	<i>Introduction to Plato</i>
2.	<b>Wizards, Stingrays and Philosophers</b>	<i>Meno 70a-81a</i>
3.	<b>Remembrances of Things Past</b>	<i>Meno 81a-100c</i>
4.	<b>Pain and Pleasure, Life and Death</b>	<i>Phaedo 57a-72d</i>
5.	<b>Immortal Souls, Immortal Arguments</b>	<i>Phaedo 72d-95e</i>
6.	<b>Because ...</b>	<i>Phaedo 95e-118</i>
7.	<b>Philosophy Undone</b>	<i>Parmenides 126a-136e</i>
8.	<b>Aristotle: Scientist of Philosophy</b>	<i>Introduction to Aristotle</i>
9.	<b>What For?</b>	<i>Nicomachean Ethics I</i>
10.	<b>Beyond the Surf and Spray</b>	<i>Nicomachean Ethics II</i>
11.	<b>Tragedy</b>	<i>Poetics</i>
12.	<b>Always (or for the most part)</b>	<i>Physics II</i>
13.	<b>What's got Soul?</b>	<i>On the Soul II</i>

Assessment and Assessment Schedule

Assessment types: 2500 word essay + 2hr examination

Weight: essay = 50% of final mark, examination = 50% of final mark

Assessment Schedule:

essay due in class **10 September** (Week 8);  
examination date in exam period **TBA**

*SOPHI Policy on Assessment*

The full SOPHI policy on assessment follows this UoS outline. It contains up to date information on *Attendance, Assessment, Grade Distribution, Marking Criteria, Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, Submission of Written Work, Late Submission and Extensions, Special Consideration, Appeals, and Learning Assistance*. For further information, or to discuss any aspect of this policy please contact the instructor.

*WebCT:*

All enrolled students have access to the WebCT site for this unit. Students not enrolled in PHIL2613 but taking the unit under special circumstances should contact the instructor to arrange for guest access. The WebCT site for this unit is designed to provide up to date and supplemental information for students, including *Unit of Study Outline, Calendar, Lecture and Tutorial Summaries, Handouts, and Essay Topics*. The easiest way to access WebCT is by the URL:

<https://learn-on-line.ce.usyd.edu.au/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

Login using your unikey and password. If you have trouble, try studentexpress:

<http://www.usyd.edu.au/webct/student/index.shtml>

*Staff contact information*

Lecturer:	A/Prof. Eugenio "Rick" Benitez
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Email:	rick.benitez@arts.usyd.edu.au
Consultations:	Mondays 12-2 or by appointment
II/III Coordinator:	Assoc. Prof. Michael McDermott
Office:	N285 Main Quad
Phone:	9351-2370
Email:	michael.mcdermott@arts.usyd.edu.au
Consultations:	By Appointment

*Additional Readings*

The following books will provide additional help. You may wish to consult them for course essays, or for your own interest. These books are available from the Special Reserve section of Fisher library.

Plato

- Allen, R. E. *Plato's Parmenides*. Minnesota, 1983.  
 Bostock, David. *Plato's Phaedo*. Oxford University Press.  
 Burger, Ronna. *The Phaedo : a Platonic labyrinth*. Yale, 1984.  
 Dancy, R. M. *Plato's Introduction of Forms*. Cambridge, 2004.  
 Day, Jane M. *Plato's Meno in Focus*. Routledge, 1994.  
 Fine, Gail, ed. *Plato vol 1 Metaphysics and Epistemology, vol.2 Ethics Politics Religion and the Soul*. Oxford, 1999.  
 Guthrie, W. K. C. *History of Greek Philosophy*, vols 4-5. Cambridge 1962-1981.  
 Hackforth, R. *Plato's Phaedo*. Cambridge.  
 Hamilton, E. & Cairns, H. eds. *Plato: The Collected Dialogues*. Princeton, 1963.  
 Klein, Jacob. *A Commentary on Plato's Meno*. North Carolina, 1965.  
 Kraut, Richard, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge 1992.  
 Miller, Mitchell. *Plato's Parmenides*. Chicago, 1993.

Aristotle

- Ackrill, J. L. *Aristotle the Philosopher*. Oxford, 1981.  
 Barnes, J., ed. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*. (2 vols.) Princeton, 1984.  
 Barnes, J. ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle*. Cambridge, 1995.  
 Guthrie, W. K. C. *History of Greek Philosophy*, vol. 6. Cambridge 1962-1981.  
 Hamlyn, D. W. *Aristotle's De Anima, Books II and III*. Oxford, 1993.  
 Judson, Lindsay. *Aristotle's Physics*. Oxford, 1991.  
 Lear, Jonathan. *Aristotle: The Desire to Understand*. Cambridge, 1988.  
 Ross, W. D. *Aristotle*. London: Methuen & Co. LTD, 1923.  
 Rorty, Amelie, ed. *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*. California, 1980.  
 Rorty, Amelie, ed. *Essays on Aristotle's Poetics*. Princeton, 1992.  
 Sorabji, Richard. *Necessity, Cause and Blame*. Cornell, 1980.