**PH145: PLATO AND DESCARTES**

**Reading List**

**Module Tutors: Dr. David Woods (Plato) and Prof. Stephen Butterfill (Descartes)**

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**How to do well in this module:** There is a direct correlation between the marks students tend to get for modules like this one and the amount of reading they do independently outside the classroom in preparation for lectures and seminars. The first thing you should do in preparation for each seminar is to read the indicated sections from Plato’s *Republic* or Descartes' *Meditations*. But it is recommended to read at least one or two of the items from the list of secondary readings indicated for each week (items marked ‘\*\*’ are essential; items marked ‘\*’ are strongly recommended). The recommended readings will help you to test and develop your own understanding of the main text.

**Plato**

**Main text:**

\*\*Grube, G. M. A. and Reeve, C. D. C. 1992. *Plato: Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. *(Or other translations from good publishers*.*)*

**Useful introductory texts:**

\*\*Annas, Julia. 1981. *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: OUP.

\*Brown, Eric, "Plato's Ethics and Politics in The Republic", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2011 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL =<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2011/entries/plato-ethics-politics/>.

\*Irwin, Terence. 1995. *Plato’s Ethics*. Oxford: OUP.

\*Reeve, C. D. C. 1988. *Philosopher-Kings: The Argument of Plato’s Republic*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

\*\*Pappas, N. 2013. *Routledge Philosophical Guidebook to Plato’s Republic*. London, Routledge.

\*\*Santas, Gerasimos. 2010. *Understanding Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. White, Nicholas. P. 1979. *A Companion to Plato’s Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc.

**Useful edited collections:**

Fine, Gail. 1999. *Plato 1: Metaphysics and Epistemology*. Oxford: OUP.

\*Fine, Gail. 1999. *Plato 2: Ethics, Politics, Religion, and the Soul*. Oxford: OUP.

Ferrari, G. R. F. 2007. *The Cambridge Companion to Plato’s Republic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

\*Kraut, Richard. 1997. *Plato’s Republic: Critical Essays*. Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

McPherran, Mark L. 2010. *Plato’s Republic: A Critical Guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

\*\*Santas, Gerasimos. 2006. *The Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

**Week 1: *Republic* Book I**

\*\**Republic* Book I.

\*Annas, Julia. 1981. *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: OUP. Chapter 2.

\*\*Barney, Rachel. 2006. “Socrates’ Refutation of Thrasymachus.” In G. Santas ed. *Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Barney, Rachel, "Callicles and Thrasymachus", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2011 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL =<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2011/entries/callicles-thrasymachus/>.

Chappell, Sophie-Grace 1993. “The Virtues of Thrasymachus.” *Phronesis* 38: 1–17.

Kahn, Charles. 1993. “Proleptic Composition in the Republic, or Why Book 1 Was Never a Separate Dialogue.” *The Classical Quarterly* 43, 1: 131–142.

\*Pappas, N. 2013. *Routledge Philosophical Guidebook to Plato’s Republic*. London, Routledge. Chs. 1–3.

\*Santas, Gerasimos. 2010. *Understanding Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Chs.1–2.

White, Nicholas. P. 1979. *A Companion to Plato’s Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. Summary Book I.

**Week 2: *Republic* Books II–IV**

\*\**Republic* Book II.

\*Annas, Julia. 1981. *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: OUP. Chs.3–6.

Cooper, John M. 1984. “Plato’s Theory of Motivation.” History of Philosophy Quarterly 1, 1: 3–21.

\*Irwin, Terence. “Republic 2: Questions about Justice.” in G. Fine ed. Plato 2. Oxford: OUP.

Lorenz, Hendrik 2006. “The Analysis of the Soul in Plato’s Republic.” In G. Santas ed. *Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Moss, Jessica. 2008. “Appearances and Calculations: Plato’s Division of the Soul.” *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 34.

\*Pappas, N. 2013. *Routledge Philosophical Guidebook to Plato’s Republic*. London, Routledge. Ch. 3–5.

\*\*Sachs, David. 1963. “A Fallacy in Plato's Republic.” *The Philosophical Review* 72, 2: 141– 158. Reprinted in R. Kraut ed. *Plato’s Republic: Critical Essays*.

Santas, Gerasimos. 2006. “Methods of Reasoning about Justice in Plato’s Republic.” In G. Santas ed. *Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

\*Santas, Gerasimos. 2010. *Understanding Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Ch.3–5.

\*\*Shields, Christopher. 2006. “Plato’s Challenge: the Case against Justice in Republic II.” In G. Santas ed. *Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Smith, Nicholas D. 1999. “Plato's Analogy of Soul and State.” *The Journal of Ethics* 3, 1: 31–49.

\*White, Nicholas. P. 1979. *A Companion to Plato’s Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. Summary Book II–IV.

\*Williams, Bernard. “The Analogy of City and Soul in Plato's Republic.” in *Exegesis and Argument: Studies in Greek Philosophy Presented to Gregory Vlastos*, ed., E.N. Lee et al. (Phronesis s.v. 1). Reprinted in G. Fine ed. *Plato 2*. Oxford: OUP and R. Kraut ed. Plato’s *Republic: Critical Essays*.

**Week 3: *Republic* Books V-VII.**

\*\**Republic* Book V.

*Book V*

\*\*Annas, Julia. 1976. “Plato’s “Republic” and Feminism.” *Philosophy* 51, 197: 307–321.

\*Annas, Julia. 1981. *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: OUP. Ch.7–9.

Brown, Eric, "Plato's Ethics and Politics in The Republic", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2011 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2011/entries/plato-ethics-politics/>. Section 4.3.

Lee, David C. 2010. “Interpreting Plato’s Republic: Knowledge and Belief.” *Philosophy Compass* 5, 10: 854–864.

\*\*Lesser, Harry. 1979. “Plato’s Feminism.” *Philosophy* 54, 207: 113–117.

Nussbaum, Martha Craven. 1980. “Shame, Separateness, and Political Unity: Aristotle’s Criticism of Plato.” In Amélie O. Rorty ed. *Essays on Aristotle’s Ethics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Okin, Susan Moller 1977. “Philosopher Queens and Private Wives: Plato on Women and the Family.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 6, 4: 345–369.

\*Pappas, N. 2013. *Routledge Philosophical Guidebook to Plato’s Republic.* London, Routledge. Ch.6, 7, 10, 11.

\*Penner, Terry. 2006. “The Forms in the Republic.” In G. Santas ed. *Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

\*Reeve, C. D. C. 1992. “The Naked Old Women in the Palaestra”, reprinted in R. Kraut ed. *Plato’s Republic: Critical Essays*. Rowman & Littlefield.

\*Santas, Gerasimos. 2010. *Understanding Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Ch.6.

\*Singpurwalla, Rachel. 2010. “The Tripartite Theory of Motivation in Plato’s Republic.” *Philosophy Compass* 5, 11: 880–892.

Taylor, C. C. W. 1986. “Plato's Totalitarianism.” Polis, 5: 4–29. Reprinted in G. Fine ed. *Plato 2*. Oxford: OUP.

Taylor, C. C. W. 2012. “The Role of Women in Plato’s Republic.” Rachana Kamtekar ed. *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy Supplementary Volume*.

\*Vlastos, Gregory. 1989. “Was Plato a Feminist?” *Times Literary Supplement*, 4,495: 276, 288–289. Reprinted in R. Kraut ed. *Plato's Republic: Critical Essays*. Rowman & Littlefield.

White, Nicholas. P. 1979. *A Companion to Plato’s Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. Summary Book V.

*Books V-VII*

\*Annas, Julia. 1981. *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: OUP. Ch.10, 12.

\*Kraut, Richard 1992. “The Defense of Justice in Plato's Republic.” in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Richard Kraut. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Reprinted in R. Kraut ed. *Plato's Republic: Critical Essays*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Mahoney, Timothy A. “Do Plato's Philosopher-Rulers Sacrifice Self-Interest to Justice?” *Phronesis* 37, 3: 265–282.

\*Pappas, N. 2013. *Routledge Philosophical Guidebook to Plato’s Republic*. London, Routledge. Ch.8.

\*Santas, Gerasimos. 2010. *Understanding Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Ch.8.

White, Nicholas. P. 1979. *A Companion to Plato’s Republic*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. Summary Book V.

**Week 4: *Republic* Books VIII–X.**

\*\**Republic* Books III and X.

Burnyeat, M. F. 1997. “Culture and Society in Plato’s Republic.” *Tanner Lectures on Human Values*. https://tavaana.org/sites/default/files/Burnyeat99.pdf

Ferrari, G. R. F. 1989. “Plato on Poetry.” In G. A. Kennedy ed. *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, vol. I: Classical Criticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

\*Kraut, Richard 1992. “The Defense of Justice in Plato's Republic.” in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Richard Kraut. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Reprinted in R. Kraut ed. Plato's *Republic: Critical Essays*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Lear, Jonathan. “Inside and Outside the Republic,” Phronesis, 37 (1992): 184–215.

Lear, Jonathan. “Allegory and Myth in Plato’s Republic.” In G. Santas ed. *Blackwell Guide to Plato’s Republic*. Oxford: Blackwell.

\*\*Nehamas, Alexander 1988. “Plato and the Mass Media.” *The Monist* 71, 2: 214–234. Reprinted in Nehamas 1999. *Virtues of Authenticity: Plato and Socrates*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

\*Pappas, N. 2013. *Routledge Philosophical Guidebook to Plato’s Republic*. London, Routledge. Ch.9, 12.

**Descartes**

**Main Text:**

Descartes’ *Meditations on First Philosophy* (J. Cottingham ed. for Cambridge University

Press is strongly recommended).

**Useful texts:**

Broughton, Janet 2002. *Descartes' Method of Doubt.* (Princeton University Press)

Hatfield, G. 2014. *Descartes’ Meditations [The Routledge Guidebook to]*. London: Routledge. (A good historically sensitive introduction to the Meditations)

Newman, Lex "Descartes' Epistemology", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2016 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2016/entries/descartes-epistemology/>.

Williams, B. 1978. *Descartes: The Project of Pure Inquiry*. Hassocks: Harvester Press. (Difficult, but rewarding. A very rich piece of philosophy in its own right.)

Wilson, Margaret. 1978. *Descartes* (Routledge).