**Course Title: Plato**

**Topics:**

This is a survey class on Plato’s philosophy. In this class, we will examine classic questions such as “What is knowledge?”, “What is virtue (e.g. piety, justice and courage)?”, and “How to live a good life?” by a close study of Plato’s dialogues. The main focus of the course will be Plato’s metaphysics and epistemology. But we will also look at Plato’s ethical and political theories, especially as they feature in the *Republic*.

**Required Books:**

Plato. *The Complete Works*. Ed. J. Cooper. Hackett Publishing Company.

Fine, Gail. *Plato*. Oxford University Press.

**Course Work:**

1. Three papers. Precise dates and topics will be announced approximately 10 days in advance. Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade per day unless an extension has been granted in advance by the instructor.

2. Regular attendance is a necessary condition for passing the course, though it will not constitute a percentage of your grade. Class participation is expected, but it will not constitute a percentage of your grades.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Week 1:

*Apology*; Vlastos, ‘Socrates’ Disavowal of Knowledge’, in Fine.

Week 2:

*Crito*; Vlastos, ‘The Socratic Elenchus’, in Fine. **First Paper Assigned**.

Week 3:

*Euthyphro*; Vlastos, ‘Socratic Piety’, in Fine. **First Paper Due**.

Week 4:

*Meno* 70a-81e.

Week 5:

*Meno* 82a-100b. Scott, ‘Platonic Recollection’, in Fine. **Second Paper Assigned**.

Week 6:

*Phaedo* 57a-95e. Devereux, ‘Separation and Immanence in Plato’s Theory of Forms’, in Fine.

Week 7:

*Phaedo* 96a-118a. Bostock, ‘The Soul and Immortality in Plato’s Phaedo’, in Fine. **Second Paper Due**.

Week 8:

*Republic* Book 1-3. Iwrin, ‘Republic 2: Questions about Justice’, in Fine.

Week 9:

*Republic* Book 4-6. Williams, ‘The Analogy of City and Soul in Plato’s Republic’, in Fine.

Week 10:

*Republic* Book 7-8. Fine, ‘Knowledge and Belief in Republic 5-7’, in Fine.

Week 11:

*Republic* Book 9-10. Burnyeat, ‘Utopia and Fantasy: The Practicability of Plato’s Ideally Just City’, in Fine. **Paper Three Assigned**.

Week 12:

*Theaetetus* 142a-168c.

Week 13:

*Theaetetus* 168d-184b; Burnyeat, ‘Knowledge is Perception: Theaetetus 151d-184a’, in Fine.

Week 14:

*Theaetetus* 184c-186e; Frede, ‘Observations on Perception in Plato’s Later Dialogues’, in Fine. **Paper Three Due**.

Week 15:

*Theaetetus* 187a-210d.