

Instructor: Dr. Dean Proessel Office
Hours: 7 K X U V G D \\
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DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to ancient philosophy. Our focus will be on the thought of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and our aim will be to understand what these philosophers say about the nature of reality, knowledge, human action, our place in the world, and what it means to live well. Questions to be examined include: What is knowledge and is it possible? How do we acquire knowledge? What sorts of things is it possible for us to know? What is the connection between virtue and knowledge? What is philosophy and how should we practice it? What is the connection between philosophy and politics? What is the nature of happiness? How is happiness related to virtue and friendship? What might it mean to live a good life?

TEXTS

Plato: The Apology and Other Related Dialogues
Broadview Press 2016, Edited by Andrew Bailey

Plato's Gorgias
Hackett 1987 Paperback edition, Translated by Zeyl

Plato's Republic
Hackett 1992 Paperback Edition, Translated by Grube

Aristotle: Introductory Readings
Hackett 1996 Paperback edition, translated by Irwin and Fine

OBJECTIVES

This course has two objectives: to help students develop their ability to read and understand the ideas and arguments they offer us. These are basic skills that every philosopher should have. Class discussions, writing assignments, and an exam will provide the main vehicle for assessing a student's success in these areas.

REQUIREMENTS

Two short essays (5-7 pages in length) – 35% each
Final exam – 30%

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the