

Plato and Aristotle

01:730:302

Fall 2013

Friday 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Scott Hall, Rm 204

Instructor: Ronald J. Planer

Email: planerr@eden.rutgers.edu

Office hours/location: TBD

Absence Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Please note: My policy for missed exams is that a makeup will be offered only in the case of (documentable) illness, a family/personal emergency or crisis, and other extreme circumstances.

Current Academic Integrity Policy:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

Required books:

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy, (Fourth Edition): from Thales to Aristotle. S.M Cohen, P. Curd, and C.D.C Reeve.

Course structure and requirements:

Grades will be determined on the basis of:

- a midterm exam (worth 50% of final grade)
- a final paper (worth 50% of final grade)

Class participation can boost your final grade, but not participating will not negatively impact your grade.

I accept late papers, but they are graded down a 1/3 of a letter grade per every day past the due date. I will not accept papers that are over two weeks late.

Full disability policies and procedures are at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/request.html>

Schedule:

We will spend the first third of the semester looking at the works of various presocratic philosophers (e.g., Parmenides, Heraclitus, Democritus). Aside from being fascinating in their own right, much of the work of Plato and Aristotle is properly read as a response to the views and theories of their predecessors. In the remaining two thirds of the semester, our focus will shift to Plato and Aristotle, in that order. We will be reading (in many cases, excerpts from) the central works of these philosophers. Thus, the course will take the form of a survey of the work of Plato and Aristotle, supplemented with some material from the presocratics, rather than an in depth study of one or two particular topics. Some additional readings may be assigned throughout the course of the semester, in which case they will be posted to the Sakai website for our class.

I plan to hold a review session for the midterm exam. I also plan to hold a “paper workshop” for the final paper, in which students will have the chance to get feedback from their peers as well as from myself, before having to hand in the final version.

The date of the midterm will be announced in class. The final paper will be due on the date that our final exam would be held (which can be found here: <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>).

Please feel free to contact me via email with any further questions you might have.