

PHIL 354: Plato

Instructor: Andrew Reisner

Lecture Location and Time: Leacock 109, Tuesday and Thursday 16:05 to 17:25

Synopsis: In this course we shall be looking at the progression in Plato's thinking on virtue through what are typically viewed as his early writing through the *Republic*. Attention will be paid both to Plato's views and to their philosophical interest. Students are required to own a copy of the required course text and to have fully read and prepared the week's readings before the start of the first class of each week. **There will be frequent unannounced quizzes on the reading.** The course will be taught through a mixture of lecture, class discussion, and group discussion.

Evaluation: The final mark in this course will be computed in the following way:

1. Weekly reading quizzes (starting in the third week of the course, 10 total): 20%

Any changes in readings from those in the schedule of topics on this syllabus will be posted on WebCt on Friday of the preceding week. Missed quizzes may not be made up.

2. Two essays: 20% each

3. Final Exam: 40%

N.B. Reading quizzes may not be made up if missed for any reason.

Electronics and Laptop Policy: Pursuant to McGill University's policy regarding electronics in the classroom, students may not use electronic devices (phones, ipods, etc.) or laptop computers during class. All electronic devices must be turned off and stored during the lecture period. Exceptions will only be made with a note from the student disabilities office. **THE RECORDING OF LECTURES IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN and is illegal without the consent of the instructor. Consent will not be given. If you are uncomfortable with these policies, then this is not the class for you.**

Participation: Participation is expected of all students, and one can be expected to be called upon, whether or not one volunteers. Because this course is textually focused, students are expected to be familiar with the assigned text and prepared to discuss individual passages in detail. **Texts must be brought to class; students who fail to bring their textbook will be excused from class.**

Communications: It is assumed that all students are attending all classes, and therefore some essential information may be transmitted in class. In particular, revisions to the reading schedule will be transmitted in class and not necessarily be made available in any other way. Students who do not attend and therefore have not prepared properly may not use non-attendance for any reason as an excuse. Information about the course and some readings and handouts may be made available on Blackboard. Students are responsible for checking each Saturday for information or updates. The principal means of contact for this course, outside of office hours and the classroom is email. **All emails to the instructor must originate from McGill University accounts, and some course communications may be sent via email to McGill University accounts. Students are responsible for checking their McGill accounts.**

Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres

infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

Please Note:

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

and

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Required Text: The text for the course may be purchased at *Paragraphe Booksellers* on Avenue McGill College:
Plato: The Complete Works ed. John M. Cooper, Hackett Publishing, 1997.