

Philosophy 161 – Aristotle

Tu/Th 2:00-3:30 pm

20 WHEELER

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Topic:

Introduction to Aristotle's philosophy

Procedure:

We will examine Aristotle's main philosophical writings covering parts of his logic, philosophy of nature, metaphysics and practical philosophy.

Provisional schedule

Course Requirements: 3 short (5pp) papers, 1 short (10 minutes) presentations of assigned text sections in class, a comprehensive final examination, regular section attendance and participation. The three papers and the exam will be roughly equally weighted (see syllabus below), and section participation can boost borderline grades at the end of the term. In addition, there may be a couple of pop-quizzes to ensure that all students are attending the lectures and keeping up with the reading.

Text: All the readings will be taken from 'A New Aristotle Reader', ed. J. L. Ackrill, 1987. It is essential that all students use the same text, and that they bring it regularly to class and section. Other readings will be made available on BSpace.

Other Policies:

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of "F" for the course as well as a report to the Office of Student Conduct, which is able to assign further penalties, including expulsion. If you are unsure about what constitutes academic dishonesty, it is your responsibility to ask or consult university guidelines at <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct/students>

SYLLABUS (tentative)

1. Th 08/28 Introduction: Aristotle's life and works.
2. T 09/02 Predication and the general structure of reality: *Categories* 1-4.
3. Th 09/04 Predication and the general structure of reality. Substance: *Categories* 5.
4. T 09/09 Predication and the general structure of reality: *On Interpretation* 1-8.
5. Th 09/11 Predication and the general structure of reality. A problem? *On Interpretation* 9 (plus article to be distributed).
6. T 09/16 Inference for proofs: Aristotle's syllogistic. *Prior Analytics* I, 1-7, 27.
7. Th 09/18 The structure of scientific knowledge: *Posterior Analytics* I, 1-4, 10.
8. T 09/23 The structure of scientific knowledge: *Posterior Analytics* II, 19 (plus article to be distributed).

First Paper Assignments handed out
9. Th 09/25 Physical reality. Inquiry into the first principles of natural science. Hylomorphism: *Physics* I 1-9. The concept of nature: *Physics* II, 1-2.
10. T 09/30 Physical reality. Causes, causality corollaries: *Physics* II 3-9.
11. Th 10/02 Physical reality. What is change? *Physics* III 1-3. (plus article to be distributed)

First Paper Assignment Due (3 page, 20% of grade)
12. T 10/07 Physical Reality. The system of the physical world and the prime mover: *On the Heavens* I 2, 9-10, II 12, *Generation and Corruption* II 1-5 (to be distributed). *Physics* VIII 6, 10.
13. Th 10/09 Physical Reality. The science of living beings. *Parts of Animals* I 1, The hylomorphic definition of the soul: *On the Soul* I 1, II 1-4.
14. T 10/14 Physical Reality. The science of living beings. Nutrition and perception: *On the Soul* II 4 - III 2. (II 7 and article to be distributed)
15. Th 10/16 Physical Reality. A hylomorphic border case. The human intellect: *On the Soul* III 4-8.

16. T 10/21 Psychological Hylomorphism (article to be distributed)
Second Paper Assignments handed out
17. Th 10/23 First principles of everything. *Metaphysics* I 1-2. Being and substance: *Met.* VI 1. The Plan of the *Metaphysics.* *Met.* III 1.
18. T 10/28 First principles of everything. Results of the inquiry into substance: *Metaphysics* VII 17, VIII 6 (plus article to be distributed).
- Second Paper Assignment Due (3 page, 20% of grade)**
19. Th 10/30 First principles of everything. Actuality and Potentiality: *Met.* IX 1-2, 5-9. The first principle of everything, *Met.* XII 5-7.
20. T 11/04 Practical philosophy. Human aims and the human good: happiness. *Nicomachean Ethics (NE)* I, 1-5, 6. The Argument from Human Function: *NE* I, 7-8. (plus article to be distributed)
21. Th 11/06 Practical philosophy. The conception of virtue: *NE* I 13. The attainment of virtue; the virtues of character: *NE* II 1-7, 9.
22. T 11/11 Academic and Administrative Holiday. *No class.*
23. Th 11/13 Practical Philosophy. Voluntary action, choice and responsibility: *NE* III 1-5.
24. T 11/18 Practical Philosophy. Right reason, good desire and action. The virtues of the intellect. *NE* VI, 1-13 (plus article to be distributed)
Third Paper Assignments handed out
25. Th 11/20 Practical Philosophy. Incontinence *NE* VII 1-3.
26. T 11/25 Practical Philosophy. Contemplation and the best life. *NE* X 6-8. (plus article to be distributed)
- Third Paper Assignment Due (5 page, 25% of grade)**
27. Th 11/27 Academic and Administrative Holiday. *No class.*
28. T 12/2 Practical Philosophy. Transition to political science: *NE* X 9; society and political relations: *Politics* I, 1-7.
28. Th 12/4 *Review.* Classes end.

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014 8-11 AM

Further reading:

English Translation:

Barnes, J. *The Complete Works of Aristotle (The Revised Oxford Translation)*, Princeton University Press, 1991.

Introductions:

Lear, J. *Aristotle. The desire to understand*, Cambridge, 1988.

Ross, W. D., *Aristotle*, London, 1923.

Companions:

Shields, C. *The Oxford Handbook of Aristotle*, Oxford 2012.

Anagnostopoulos, G. *A Companion to Aristotle*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.

Barnes, J., *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle*, Cambridge: CUP, 1995.

For further readings check:

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle/>