

**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:**

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

**You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.**

**COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM**

Dr Michael Laffin

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 PM, Old Brewery room OBG11

Phone: 01224 272385

Email: [michael.laffin@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:michael.laffin@abdn.ac.uk)

**Discipline Administration:**

Mr Warwick Brown

50-52 College Bounds

Room CB001

01224 272366

[philosophy@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:philosophy@abdn.ac.uk)

Students are asked to make themselves familiar with the information on key institutional policies which have been made available within MyAberdeen (<https://abdn.blackboard.com/bbcswebdav/institution/Policies>). These policies are relevant to all students and will be useful to you throughout your studies. They contain important information and address issues such as what to do if you are absent, how to raise an appeal or a complaint and how seriously the University takes your feedback.

These institutional policies should be read in conjunction with this course guide, in which School specific policies are detailed. Further information can be found on the [University's Infohub webpage](#) or by visiting the Infohub.

## **TIMETABLE**

All students attend one 90 minute lecture per week. In addition, all level 3 students attend one 90 minute tutorial per week, while all level 4 students attend one 90 minute seminar per week. In total, each student therefore has 3 hours of class contact per week.

Students can view their university timetable at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**General:** This course is an exploration of Ancient Greek ethics through a careful study of the arguments of several important Greek philosophers (e.g., thinkers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle). Through close readings of primary texts, classroom discussions, and writing assignments, students will become familiar with the way in which these crucial early philosophers addressed important ethical issues.

**2018/19:** In this year's iteration of the course we will be focusing on a close and critically sympathetic reading of Plato's *Republic*, a crucial work in ancient ethics and one of the most important philosophical works of all time. In the dialogue, Socrates and his interlocutors ask after the question of justice, and, given the nature of the question, end up discussing a range of topics including morality, politics, philosophy,

and ultimately the good life. Over the course of the half-session, using a text-based approach, we will explore the way these topics hang together in the dialogue and how the *Republic's* treatment of these questions relates both to other ancient Greek ways of thinking about ethics and to the ethical and philosophical puzzles and debates of our own time. A thorough familiarity with the text will provide a basis for engaging with secondary and critical literature on Plato, which students will be encouraged to do in essays, tutorials and seminars.

### **INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Students will have acquired knowledge of important topics and figures in ancient ethics by carefully reading classic texts from the early tradition of Western philosophy
- Students will be able to critically engage with central texts, debates, and issues in ancient ethics
- Students will be able to articulate ideas clearly and systematically in written form and discussion
- Students will be able to read and critically discuss primary materials carefully and identify key arguments

### **LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

Plato's *Republic* is traditionally divided into ten "books" (or chapters), and we will generally aim to cover one book of the dialogue each week, following an introduction to the dialogue as a whole in week 1. The translation that we are using divides the dialogue into chapters that do not always correspond exactly to the ten books. Therefore, *be sure to pay attention to the page numbers indicated in the reading schedule*. In addition to our reading of Plato, we will also be reading from Julia Annas's commentary entitled *An Introduction to Plato's Republic* (Oxford University Press, 1981). **Please ensure that you have done the reading from the *Republic* for the week *in advance* of each week's lecture.** The tutorials/seminars will focus on the *previous* week's reading. If you find yourself struggling to keep up with the reading, prioritize the reading of the primary text (i.e. Plato's *Republic*). The Annas text is intended to supplement your reading of Plato, and therefore, while important, it is less crucial.

Week 1 (week commencing 10 Sep): Lecture- Introduction to the *Republic* and to the reading of Plato.

Required Reading: Robin Waterfield's 'Introduction,' to *Plato Republic* pp. xi-lxii; Annas' commentary chapter 1, pp. 1-15.

**No tutorial/seminar this week.**

Week 2 (w/c 17 Sep): Lecture- *Republic*, Book I (327A-354C)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book I, pp. 3-43; Annas chapter 2, pp. 16-58.

**Tutorial/Seminar Session 1: Introduction to Course.**

Week 3 (w/c 24 Sep): Lecture- *Republic*, Book II (357A-383C)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book II, pp. 44-79; Annas chapter 3, pp. 59-71.

**Tutorial/Seminar Session 2: Book I.**

Week 4 (w/c 01 Oct): Lecture- *Republic*, Book III (386A-417B)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book III, pp. 79-122; Annas chapter 4, pp. 72-108.

**Tutorial/Seminar Session 3: Book II.**

Week 5 (w/c 08 Oct): Lecture- *Republic*, Book IV (419A-445E)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book IV, pp. 122-158; Annas chapter 6, pp. 153-169 (optional Annas chapter 5, pp. 109-152).

**Tutorial/Seminar Session 4: Book III.**

Week 6 (w/c 15 Oct): Lecture- *Republic*, Book V (449A-480A)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book V, pp. 159-202; Annas chapter 7, pp. 170-189.

**Tutorial/Seminar Session 5: Book IV.**

Week 7 (w/c 22 Oct): Lecture- *Republic*, Book VI (484A-511E)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book VI, pp. 202-240; Annas chapter 9, pp. 217-241 (optional Annas chapter 8, pp. 190-216).

### **Tutorial/Seminar Session 6: Book V.**

Week 8 (w/c 29 Oct): Lecture- *Republic*, Book VII (514A-541B)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book VII, pp. 240-276; Annas chapter 10, pp. 242-271 (optional Annas chapter 11, pp. 272-293).

### **Tutorial/Seminar Session 7: Book VI.**

Week 9 (w/c 05 Nov): Lecture- *Republic*, Book VIII (543A-569C)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book VIII, pp. 277-312; read one of the optional Annas chapters from a previous week.

### **Tutorial/Seminar Session 8: Book VII.**

Week 10 (w/c 12 Nov): Lecture- *Republic*, Book IX (571A-592B)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book IX, pp. 312-343; Annas chapter 12, pp. 294-320.

### **Tutorial/Seminar Session 9: Book VIII.**

Week 11 (w/c 19 Nov): Lecture- *Republic*, Book X (595A-621D)

Required Reading: *Republic* Book X, pp. 344-379; Annas chapter 13, pp. 321-334 (optional Annas chapter 14, pp. 335-354).

### **Tutorial/Seminar Session 10: Books IX and X.**

Week 12 (w/c 26 Nov): Revision session.

**No tutorial/seminar this week.**

### **READING LIST**

Required weekly readings are assigned from Plato's *Republic* and Annas's *Introduction* as indicated under 'LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME' above.

Occasionally, additional secondary texts may also be suggested as optional reading. Given that this course is based on a close reading of the *Republic*, it is essential that each student own a copy of the book in the recommended translation and bring it to each class session.

**Students should buy these books:**

- 1) *Plato Republic* (Oxford World's Classics), translated by Robin Waterfield. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993). Please be sure to get this translation and to bring it to both lecture and tutorial/seminar sessions.
- 2) Julia Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981)

## **SECONDARY READING**

Where secondary readings are required, they will be available on short-term loan in the library or digitized on MyAberdeen.

A list of recommended further reading will be provided on MyAberdeen.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **Level 3 students:**

1 x 2500 word essay (50%)

1 x 2-hour exam (50%)

### **Level 4 students:**

1 x 3500 word essay (50%)

1 x 2-hour exam (50%)

### **Resit (for Level 3 students only):**

1 x 2-hour exam (100%)

In addition, students may be asked to undertake assignments for tutorials/seminars (such as worksheets) that are not formally assessed.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to **MyAberdeen- Organisations-Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates**. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will **normally be provided within three working weeks** (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

## **ESSAYS**

Guidance for the Essay, including essay topics, will be available on MyAberdeen shortly after the course begins. For word counts, see above.

Total word count includes footnotes but excludes bibliography. Students will be penalised for essays that are significantly too short or too long.

## **ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

The essay is due on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018** by 3pm (Week 8)

## **SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

Submit **one paper copy** with a completed essay cover sheet to the **drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds** and **one official electronic copy** to **TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen**. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

**Paper Copy:** One paper copy, typed and double spaced, together with an **Assessment cover sheet** – this should have your ID number **clearly** written on the cover sheet, with **NO** name or signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** completed, including tutor's name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via [MyAberdeen](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/). (for instructions please see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/> )

Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 PHxxxx Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. PHxxxx Essay 1. To help us comply with our

anonymous marking policy, please remove any immediately identifying information (e.g. your name) from your work.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks.

Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

## EXAMINATION

You will choose two questions to answer from a list of seven. The questions will be grouped into two groups, and you will have to select one question from each group. You are allowed to bring one hard (not electronic) copy of Waterfield's translation of Plato's *Republic* to the exam.

Past exam papers can be viewed at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/>.

Please Note: Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.