

Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities

Humanities 11500 01
 Fall 2002
 TTh 1:30-2:50
 Harper Memorial 102

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Class	Topic	Reading
Week 1 Th, 3 Oct	Introduction Modern questions about responsibility	Kant
Week 2 Tu, 8 Oct Th, 10 Oct	The Iliad Plot summary, what kinds of things do warriors care about? Critical debate: are the Homeric Greeks missing something?	Iliad Books 1-4, 6, 8-9, 11-12, 16-24 Snell; Iliad 1-2.1-83, 3.349-370, 4.68-140, 11.401-412, 12.101-104, 13.455-461, 16.477-546, 17.601-624, 20.338-454, 22.98-130, 22.252-3, 22.271, 22.385, 23.774-7
Week 3 Tu, 15 Oct Th, 17 Oct	Shame and motivation Are the heroes only concerned with how they look to others? How shame works	Adkins; Williams I; Iliad 6.313-end, 8.87-171, 13.274-294, 15.560-567, 15.657-667, 17.89-105, 22.98-130 Philoctetes ** First paper topics distributed
Week 4 Tu, 22 Oct Th, 24 Oct Fr, 25 Oct	The significance of shame Oedipus was fated to do it, so why does he feel bad? Oedipus' denials of responsibility	Oedipus the King Oedipus at Colonus ** First papers due by noon
Week 5 Tu, 29 Oct Th, 31 Oct	Transition to Plato Taking stock: shame, the Greeks, and us Can values be chosen by anyone, even God?	Williams II Euthyphro, esp. 9e-11c ** Second paper topics distributed
Week 6 Tu, 5 Nov Th, 7 Nov Fr, 8 Nov	Searching for a definition of virtue Are there various kinds of virtues or is virtue just one thing? If Socrates is right how is knowledge of virtue possible?	Meno 70a-80d Meno 80d-end ** Second papers due by noon
Week 7 Tu, 12 Nov Th, 14 Nov	The individual and society Are we bound to obey unjust laws? Did Socrates make an agreement	Crito (background: <i>Apology</i>) ** Third paper topics distributed Crito
Week 8 Tu, 19 Nov Th, 21 Nov M, 18 Nov	<i>The Republic</i> What is Thrasymachus' challenge? Glaucon's test	Republic Book 1, esp. 338c-354d Republic Book 2 up to 378e, esp. 357a-368c ** Third paper draft due by noon

<i>Week 9</i>	<i>Conclusions about Plato</i>	
Tu, 26	The analogy between the city and the soul	Republic Books 3-4 412b-445e
Nov		
Th 28 Nov	No class: Thanksgiving break	
<i>Week 10</i>	<i>Conclusions</i>	
Tu, 3 Dec	Voluntary choice under constraint	Aristotle
Th, 5 Dec	Is it worse to be constrained by another person than by nature?	Iliad 6.440-465, Republic 414b-415d
Mon, 9 Dec		** Final papers due by noon

Course Materials

Readings are from the following books, available from the Seminary Co-op Bookstore (5757 S. University Ave.).

The Iliad of Homer Lattimore, trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)

Philoctetes and Ajax in Sophocles II Grene and Lattimore, eds. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press)

Oedipus the King in Sophocles I Grene and Lattimore, eds. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press)

Euthyphro, Meno, Apology, Crito in *Five Dialogues*, Grube, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett)

Plato, *The Republic*, Grube and Reeve, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett)

In addition, the following readings will be distributed as xerox copies:

Immanuel Kant Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals Ellington, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett), pp. 7-13.

Bruno Snell, *The Discovery of the Mind: The Greek Origins of European Thought* T.G. Rosenmeyer, trans. (New York: Harper & Row, 1953), pp. xi, 17-20, 29-32.

Arthur Adkins, *Merit and Responsibility* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1960), pp. 48-9.

Bernard Williams, *Shame and Necessity* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993),

Williams I = pp. 78-82.

Williams II = pp. 88-95.

Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. 3, Ch. 1, W. D. Ross, trans. in *A New Aristotle Reader* J. L. Ackrill, ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press), pp. 387-390.

Course Requirements and Policies

1) Four writing assignments are required: three distinct papers and a revised version of the third, final paper. The first paper will count for 20% of the final grade, the second 30%, and the revised final paper will count for 50%.

2) In general:

a) All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

b) Late papers will be marked down one half grade for each day past the deadline.

c) Plagiarism will result in failure in this course and will be reported to the relevant academic authorities. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. If you are unsure about whether something would constitute plagiarism, please ask.