

HUMANITIES 11500, SECTION 9
PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES
University of Chicago, autumn 2004

Course Instructor: Jason Bridges
Office hours: Thursday, 10:00-11:30am, Wieboldt 125

Writing Intern: Daniel Groll
Office hours TBA

READINGS

Most of the course readings are drawn from the following books, available for purchase at the Seminary Coop Bookstore (in the basement of 5757 University Ave.):

The Iliad of Homer, translated by Lattimore (University of Chicago Press)
Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*, translated by Woodruff and Meineck (Hackett Publishing)
Sophocles, *Sophocles II*, edited by David Grene (University of Chicago Press)
Plato, *Five Dialogues*, translated by Grube (Hackett Publishing)
Plato, *Protagoras*, translated by Lombardo and Bell (Hackett Publishing)
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by Ross, Akrill and Urmson (Oxford University Press)

All of these books are fairly inexpensive.

There are numerous translations in print of each of the texts we will discuss. *Make sure you use the translations found in the books listed above.*

The remaining course readings are collected in a reading packet, available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center (on the first floor of the Classics building, which is in the southwest corner of the main quad).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

First paper:	3 pages	due Oct. 20 th in class	worth 25% of course grade
Second paper:	5 pages	due Nov. 15 th in class	worth 30%
Final paper:	7 pages	due Dec. 8 th in Professor Bridges' teaching box in Classics 17	worth 35%

The remaining 10% of the course grade will be based on class participation.

Further notes:

1. Late papers will be docked a grade per day (e.g., B+ to B) unless you have received approval ahead of time from one of the course instructors.
2. No papers will be accepted after December 8th.
3. There will be a few additional short writing assignments throughout the course. Their purpose is to facilitate class discussion, and they will not be graded.
4. Regular attendance in class is required. Students are also required to attend writing seminars organized by the writing intern.
5. There is no final exam.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

Part I: Introduction

Meeting	Topic	Reading
1	Course overview	
2	A contemporary perspective: the subversion of moral responsibility	Nagel, "Moral Luck"

Part II: The psychology of the *Iliad*

3	Homer's <i>Iliad</i> : background and content	<i>Iliad</i> , books 1-4, 6, 8, 9
4	Did the Homeric Greeks lack the very idea of human agency?	<i>Iliad</i> , books 11, 16, 18, 19, 22 Snell, excerpts from <i>The Discovery of the Mind</i>
5	Did the Homeric Greeks ignore intentions?	<i>Iliad</i> , book 24 Adkins, excerpts from <i>Merit and Responsibility</i> and <i>From the Many to the One</i>

Part III: Responsibility and the tragedies

6	Greek tragedy and <i>Oedipus Tyrannus</i>	<i>Oedipus Tyrannus</i>
7	Responsibility in the absence of fault	<i>Oedipus at Colonus</i>
8	Responsibility and sanity	<i>Ajax</i>
9	Assigning responsibility	Antiphon, <i>Second Tetralogy</i>
10	A contemporary perspective: Is responsibility a factual matter at all?	Korsgaard, "Creating the Kingdom of Ends"

Part IV: Plato on piety and virtue

11	Socrates' search for the nature of piety	<i>Euthyphro</i>
12	Socrates' view of himself	<i>Apology</i> , <i>Phaedo</i> 115a-end
13	Virtue as knowledge	<i>Meno</i>
14	Weakness of the will	<i>Protagoras</i>

Part V: Aristotle on motivation

15	A modern perspective: the authority of desire	Hume, excerpt from <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>
16	Virtue and practical wisdom	Selections from books 2 and 6 of the <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
17	Weakness of the will revisited	Selections from book 7 of the <i>Ethics</i>
18	Taking stock	(no reading)