

PHIL 161: History of Ethics
Fall 2010: Greek Ethics
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Syllabus

This is an idealized syllabus for Greek Ethics; it outlines a fairly comprehensive course, which might be feasible on a semester system, but which is probably too ambitious for the quarter system. Consequently, we will need to abridge, as time and interests dictate. For instance, we could make connections between Greek ethics and political theory (§§4, 8, and 11). But to do so, we would probably have to sacrifice an examination of Hellenistic ethics (§§12-13). Alternatively, our coverage of Greek ethical theory could be broader in scope, extending to Hellenistic ethics (§§12-13), but then we must sacrifice coverage of issues in Greek political theory (§§4, 8, and 11). In any case, it's unclear whether there will be time for coverage of the *Philebus* (§9). I can produce a revised syllabus, if need be, when these decisions have been made. But I think it is useful to provide the more comprehensive Syllabus now, both because it is not yet clear how we will abridge and because some students might want information about additional topics and readings for further reading and/or a paper topic.

Required readings are drawn from the required texts and are preceded by '(A)'. Recommended readings are preceded by '(B)'. Especially recommended readings are preceded by an asterisk. Bibliographic details for texts can be found on the Select Bibliography. If you are having trouble locating a particular text, let me know, and I can try to help (e.g. lend you a copy myself).

0. GENERAL

- (B) Irwin, *The Development of Ethics*, vol. 1.

1. PRESOCRATIC BACKGROUND

- (B) Adkins, *Merit and Responsibility*, chs. i-xii; Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*; Barnes, *Early Greek Philosophy* (esp. Heraclitus, Parmenides, and Democritus); Dover, *Greek Popular Morality*; Homer, *Iliad* (esp. i, vi, ix, xvii, xix, xxiv); Irwin, *Plato's Moral Theory*, ch. 2 and "Plato: The Intellectual Background" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut; Sophocles, *Antigone* and *Oedipus the King*.

2. SOCRATES AND PLATO

- (A) *Apology*.
- (B) *Crito*. *Aristotle, *Metaphysics* i 6, xiii 4; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, ch. 1 and "Plato: The Intellectual Background" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut; *Vlastos, "The Paradox of Socrates" in *Socrates*, ed. Vlastos, and **Socrates, Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, chs. 1-3.

3. SOCRATIC METHOD AND ETHICS

- (A) *Euthyphro*; *Laches*; *Lysis* esp. 219d-220b; *Euthydemus* esp. 278e-282e.
- (B) **Charmides*. *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, chs. 2-5; *Penner, "The Unity of Virtue" reprinted in *Essays on the Philosophy of Socrates*, ed. Benson, and "Socrates and the Early Dialogues" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut; Vlastos, "What Did Socrates Understand By his 'What is F?' Question?" in Vlastos, *Platonic Studies*, **Socrates, Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, chs. 4-8, and **Socratic Studies*, chs. 1-3, 5.

4. DISOBEDIENCE AND DEMOCRACY: THE *CRITO*

- (A) *Crito*.
- (B) Brickhouse and Smith, *Socrates on Trial*; *Irwin, "Socratic Inquiry and Politics" and "Socrates and Athenian Democracy"; *Kraut, *Socrates and the State*; Vlastos, "The Historical Socrates and Athenian Democracy" in Vlastos, *Socratic Studies*.

5. HEDONISTIC ANSWERS TO SOCRATIC QUESTIONS: THE *PROTAGORAS*

- (A) *Protagoras* [esp. 317e-334c, 348c-362a].
- (B) Devereux, "The Unity of the Virtues in Plato's *Protagoras* and *Laches*"; Gosling and Taylor, *The Greeks on Pleasure*, ch. 3; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, ch. 6; McDowell, "Virtue and Reason"; *Penner, "The Unity of Virtue" reprinted in *Essays on the Philosophy of Socrates*, ed. Benson; Rickless, "Socrates's Moral Intellectualism"; *Taylor, *Plato's Protagoras* [notes]; *Vlastos, "The Unity of the Virtues in the *Protagoras*" in Vlastos, *Platonic Studies* and "Introduction" to *Plato's Protagoras*, ed. Vlastos.

6. JUSTICE AND DIALECTIC: THE *GORGIAS*

- (A) *Gorgias* [esp. 461b-508c].
- (B) Gosling and Taylor, *The Greeks on Pleasure*, ch. 4; *Irwin, *Plato's Gorgias* [notes], "Objectivity and Coercion in Plato's Dialectic," "Socrates the Epicurean" reprinted in *Essays on the Philosophy of Socrates*, ed. Benson, and **Plato's Ethics*, chs. 7-8; *Vlastos, *Socrates, Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, ch. 8; White, "Rational Prudence in Plato's *Gorgias*."

7. THE *REPUBLIC*

- I. *General*
 - (A) *Republic* i-ix
 - (B) Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, chs. 11-18.
- II. *Doubts about Justice*
 - (A) *Republic* i-ii (through 367e)
 - (B) *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, chs. 11-12; White, "The Classification of Goods in Plato's *Republic*."
- III. *Moral Psychology and the Virtues*
 - (A) *Republic* ii-iv
 - (B) Cooper, "The Psychology of Justice in Plato" and "Plato's Theory of Human Motivation" in *Reason and Emotion*; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, chs. 13-14.
- IV. *The Eudaimonist Defense of Justice*
 - (A) *Republic* iv, viii-ix
 - (B) *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, chs. 15, 17; *Kraut, "The Defense of Justice in Plato's *Republic*" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut; *Sachs, "A Fallacy in Plato's *Republic*" in *Plato II*, ed. Vlastos; Vlastos, "Justice and Happiness in the *Republic*" in Vlastos, *Platonic Studies*.
- V. *Platonic Love*
 - (A) *Symposium* 210-212; *Phaedrus* 230-234, 237-257.
 - (B) Brink, "Self-love and Altruism" and "Eudaimonism, Love and Friendship, and Political Community"; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, ch. 18; Price, *Love and Friendship in Plato and Aristotle*, chs. 2-3; *Vlastos, "The Individual as Object of Love in Plato" in Vlastos, *Platonic Studies*.
- VI. *Metaphysics and Epistemology*
 - (A) *Republic* v-vii
 - (B) **Phaedo*; *Fine, "Knowledge and Belief in *Republic* v-vii"; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, ch. 16; Vlastos, "Degrees of Reality in Plato" in Vlastos, *Platonic Studies*; White,

"Plato's Metaphysical Epistemology" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut.

8. THE POLITICAL THEORY OF THE *REPUBLIC*

- (A) Review *Republic* ii-ix, esp. 347bc, 368c-376d, 413c-434e, 451b-466d, 471c-474c, 487b-489d, 492a-496a, 499d-501c, 519b-521b, 539e-580c, 590a-592b.
- (B) **Statesman* and *Laws* 624a-636e, 643a-645e, 653a-c, 660e-668d, 676a-681d, 687a-690c, 694b, 697a-698b, 701de, 705d-706a, 712c-715d, 719e-720e, 722c-728c, 730b-735a, 739a-e, 744a-745b, 745e-746d, 756b-758d, 759b, 767e-771a, 780a-783a, 811c-e, 818a, 853a-854c, 857b-858b, 859c-864c, 874e-875d, 924a-c, 945b-e, 949e-952d, 960d-end; Barker, *The Political Thought of Plato and Aristotle*, esp. chs. 3-4; Brink, "Eudaimonism, Love and Friendship, and Political Community;" **Mill On Liberty*; Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*, vol. 1; Vlastos, "Was Plato a Feminist?"; White, "The Ruler's Choice".

9. PLATO'S *PHILEBUS*

- (A) *Philebus*.
- (B) Frede, *Plato's Philebus* [introduction] and "Disintegration and Restoration: Pleasure and Pain in Plato's *Philebus*" in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. Kraut; Gosling, *Plato's Philebus* [notes]; Gosling and Taylor, *The Greeks on Pleasure*, chs. 7-8; *Irwin, *Plato's Ethics*, ch. 19.

10. ARISTOTLE'S ETHICS

- I. *General*
 - (A) *Nicomachean Ethics*, esp. i-iii, v, vii-x.
 - (B) **Eudemian Ethics*; *Magna Moralia*; Annas, *The Morality of Happiness*; Hardie, *Aristotle's Ethical Theory*; Irwin, *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics* [notes and glossary] and **Aristotle's First Principles*, esp. chs. 16-21; Kraut, *Aristotle on the Human Good*; **Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty.
- II. *Eudaimonia*
 - (A) *Nicomachean Ethics* i and x.
 - (B) **Physics* i 7-8, ii; **Metaphysics* vii 3, 17; **De Anima* i 1, ii 1-5; Cooper, *Reason and Human Good in Aristotle* and "Aristotle on the Goods of Fortune" in *Reason and Emotion*; Irwin, **Aristotle's First Principles*, ch. 16; Kraut, *"Two Conceptions of Happiness," "The Peculiar Function of Human Beings," and **Aristotle on the Human Good*; *Nagel, "Aristotle on Eudaimonia" in *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty; *Whiting, "Aristotle's Function Argument: A Defense" and "Human Nature and Intellectualism in Aristotle"; Wilkes, "The Good Man and the Good for Man in Aristotle's Ethics" in *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty.
- III. *Virtue and Akrasia*
 - (A) *Nicomachean Ethics* ii-v, vii.
 - (B) Burnyeat, "Aristotle on Learning to Be Good" in *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty; Irwin, *Aristotle's First Principles*, chs. 17, 21; McDowell, "Virtue and Reason" and "The Role of Eudaimonia in Aristotle's Ethics" in *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty; Urmson, "Aristotle's Doctrine of the Mean" in *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty.
- IV. *Eudaimonism and the Good of Others: Friendship and Justice*
 - (A) *Nicomachean Ethics* v, viii-ix.
 - (B) **Rhetoric* i 9. *Annas, *The Morality of Happiness*, ch. 12; Brink, "Self-love and Altruism" and "Eudaimonism, Love and Friendship, and Political Community;"

Cooper, "Aristotle on Friendship" in *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics*, ed. Rorty; Hardie, *Aristotle's Ethical Theory*, ch. 15; *Irwin, *Aristotle's First Principles*, ch. 18; Vlastos, "The Individual as Object of Love in Plato" in *Platonic Studies*; Whiting, "Impersonal Friends."

11. ARISTOTLE'S *POLITICS* AND DEMOCRACY

- (A) *Politics*, esp. i-iv, vii.
- (B) *The Constitution of Athens*. Adkins, "The Connection Between Aristotle's *Ethics* and *Politics*" in *A Companion to Aristotle's Politics*, ed. Keyt and Miller; Brink, "Eudaimonism, Love and Friendship, and Political Community"; Irwin, "The Good of Political Activity," **Aristotle's First Principles*, chs. 19-21, and "Moral Science and Political Theory in Aristotle;" Keyt, "Three Basic Theorems in Aristotle's *Politics*" in *A Companion to Aristotle's Politics*, ed. Keyt and Miller.

12. EPICUREAN HEDONISM

- (A) Cicero, *De Finibus* i-ii ; Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* §§21-25.
- (B) Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*. Annas, *The Morality of Happiness*; Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* [commentary]; *Mitsis, *Epicurus' Ethical Theory* and "Epicurus on Death and the Duration of Life."

13. STOIC ETHICS

- (A) Cicero, *De Finibus*, iii-v; Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* §§56-67.
- (B) *Annas, *The Morality of Happiness*; *Irwin, "Stoic and Aristotelian Conceptions of Happiness"; Long and Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* [commentary].