

PHILOSOPHY 100, FALL 2013

MW 5:00-6:20 pm, PETER 102

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Office Hours: Tue. & Th. 4:00-5:00 and by appointment

TEXTS: Plato, *Meno*, *Phaedo*, *Republic*, *Statesman*.

1. Plato's predecessors and their influence on him. (Presocratic views on what is most real, the Heraclitean vs. the Parmenidean view on the nature of what is, senses vs. thought or reason, Parmenidean conception of knowledge, the various conceptions of the soul—materialist vs. non-materialist, the view of Pythagoras; the practices and views of the Sophists; Socratic practice and the elenchus, Socratic definitions and Forms, Socratic views on the nature of virtue and moral psychology.)
2. Read the *Meno*. (Socratic Definition and its object; early Theory of Forms; definitions of virtue; Theory of Recollection; the distinction between Knowledge and Belief; the Socratic position on whether or not virtue can be taught.)
 - a. R. Robinson, "Socratic Definition."
 - b. R. E. Allen, "Plato's Earlier Theory of Forms."
3. Read the *Phaedo*. (The nature of the philosopher and of philosophy; the faculty of knowledge, its activity, and its objects; the arguments for the immortality of the soul—the argument from opposites, from Recollection, from affinity of Soul and Forms, from causes; soul as harmony; the imperfection of the sensible world.)
 - a. H.F. Cherniss, "The Philosophical Economy of the Theory of Ideas."
 - b. A. Nehamas, "Plato on the Imperfection of the Sensible World."
4. *Republic* :
 - (i). Read Books I and II. (The first attempts to define justice (the views of Cephalus and Polemarchus), the argument and account of justice by Thrasymachus; the argument from Function; Glaukon's challenge, the conventionality of justice, and the contractarian conception of justice; Socrates shift to a search for the nature of social/political justice; the first city (the "city of the swine") as the healthy city, the luxurious city, the necessity of Guardians; the arguments

