

**Philosophy 9013A**  
**Aristotle: Celebrated Texts**  
**Autumn 2018**



September to December 2018  
StvH 1145  
Seminar: Wednesdays 2.30-5.30

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Stevenson Hall 4141  
Office Hours: TBA

### **Tentative Course Outline**

**Course description:** This seminar is a study of a series of twelve celebrated texts by Aristotle. The subjects of the selected texts will be: the ontology of the *Categories*; the foundations of semantics; the status of future contingents; the refutation of the Theory of Forms; the defense of the Principle of Non-Contradiction; the theory of truth; the search for ‘substance’; space, time and void; the resolution of Zeno's paradoxes; abstraction and the nature of mathematics; the definition of soul; the theory of virtue; foundations of political thought.

**Course objectives:** The objectives of this course are two. The first is to give graduate students a deeper understanding of some important parts of Aristotle’s thought – deeper than they are likely to have got in undergraduate studies. The emphasis here will be on close analytic reading of the relevant texts. The second objective, pursued in the two assigned papers, is to give students some training in the preparation of conference-style papers.

**Textbook:** Students will need to have access to the following works of Aristotle: *Categories, de Interpretatione, Physics, de Anima, de Generatione animalium, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethic, Politics*. Probably the most convenient form in which to have these texts is in *The Complete Works of Aristotle* (2 volumes), ed. J. Barnes, Bollingen Series, Princeton University Press. But other editions and translations are entirely acceptable.

**Requirements:** eight short exegetical exercises (about 1 page) due at various dates throughout the term (20%); two conference-style papers (about 3000 words) due late October and mid-December (35% each); participation 10%