

Philosophy 3006G
Aristotle: Celebrated Texts
Winter 2017



January to April, 2017
Room TC 342
Lectures: W 10.30-12.30 & F 11.30-12.30

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Stevenson Hall 4141
Office Hours: W 1.00-3.00

Course Outline

Course description: This course 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 theory of causes, the definition of soul, the theory of animal reproduction, the refutation of the void, the resolution of Zeno's paradoxes, and the nature of mathematics.

Textbook: Students will need to have access to the following works of Aristotle: *Categories*, *de Interpretatione*, *Physics*, *de Anima*, *de Generatione animalium*, *Metaphysics*, *Nicomachean Ethics*. 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.

Course objectives: The objectives of this course are three. The first is to give students an acquaintance with some important parts of Aristotle's work: while some of the passages for study are fairly mainstream, others are a bit less generally known, though they have all been important in the philosophical tradition. The second objective is to improve students' ability to read and analyze philosophical texts: many of our passages are relatively short, but their thought is deep. Finally, the two short thematic papers will enhance students' ability to organize their ideas and to present them in a clear and engaging way.

Method of instruction: lectures with class discussion

Requirements: eight short exegetical exercises (about 1 page) due at various dates throughout the term (20%); two short thematic papers (about 2000 words) due in mid February and in late March (35% each); participation 10%

Prerequisite: Philosophy 2500 F/G: Ancient Philosophy

Audit: Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students are directed to view the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

Policy on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

Statement on Use of Plagiarism Software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

Additional Links

- Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
- Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)