

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline
Winter 2023**

**Philosophy 3003G (001)
Plato**

Winter Term
In-person lectures
W 9:30-11:30; TC 204
F 9:30-10:30; TC 205

Instructor: Devin Henry
Office: StH 3141
Office Hours (virtual): By Appointment
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PREREQUISITE CHECKING

◀ Prerequisite(s): Philosophy 2200F/G. ▶

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

DESCRIPTION

In this course we will explore the dialogues of Plato. Topics will include: What is philosophy and how should it be practiced? Can moral-political reform be achieved through argument alone or does it require the mechanisms of the State? What is the underlying nature of reality? Is the fundamental state of the universe motion or stability? Is knowledge possible? If so, how do we acquire it? Can we have knowledge of a changing world or does knowledge require eternal, unchanging objects (Forms)? What is the nature of happiness and how does one attain it? How many kinds of friendship are there? Is friendship necessary for happiness?

TEXTS

Plato: Complete Works, ed. John Cooper (available at UWO Bookstore)

The UWO Bookstore has stocked hard copies of the course text. However, electronic versions are available through the library.

OBJECTIVES

This course has two objectives. The first is to give students of philosophy an introduction to the origins and foundations of their discipline, including the problems that define it. The second is to help students develop their ability to read and understand difficult philosophical texts and to reflect on the ideas and arguments they offer us. These are basic skills that every well-rounded philosopher should have.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation	10%
Three shorter textual analyses	15% each
Final Essay (7-9 pages)	45%

See OWL for instructions, late policies, and assignment due dates.

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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://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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

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

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

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>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

PHILOSOPHY 3003G: PLATO
Professor Devin Henry

****THIS READING LIST IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE COURSE****

Below you will find the weekly schedule for this course. Class time will be devoted primarily to discussion, and so students are expected to have read the material beforehand. As a companion to this course, I will be uploading to OWL certain prerecorded lectures (and accompanying Power Point slides where applicable) from a past seminars to help guide you through the readings. Students are encouraged (though not required) to listen to those episodes before class.

Week	Readings
1	<i>Protagoras</i> Part 1. 309a-335e
2	<i>Protagoras</i> Part 2. 336a-end (esp. 351b-362a)
3	<i>Lysis</i>
4	<i>Gorgias</i> Part 1. 447-466
5	<i>Gorgias</i> Part 2. 466-481
6	<i>Gorgias</i> Part 3. 481-end
7	<i>Symposium</i> 199c3-end.
8	Reading Week
9	<i>Theaetetus</i> Part 1. 151c-186e (concentrate on 151e-160e)
10	<i>Theaetetus</i> Part 2. 187-201c
11	<i>Theaetetus</i> Part 3. 201c-end.
12	<i>Philebus</i> Part 1 (TBD)
13	<i>Philebus</i> Part 2 (TBD)