

# Plato and the Philosophical Tradition

Professor Redemer

## **Course Description**

This course will be a graduate level seminar on Philosophy of Plato. Our method will be reading and discussing the dialogues written by Plato that give us a virtual conversation with the first philosopher, Socrates. Seeing how Socrates inquires and asks questions, and following how Plato's art and characters dramatizes that inquiry, will hopefully get us to fall in love with the wisdom that the philosopher is seeking but never has. We will also engage with selected later texts which engage with Plato and the legacy of his ideas.

## **Course Format**

The format of the course will be predominantly one of guided discussion. The instructor will often be doing most of the talking, but generally to illuminate and draw out themes from the text for discussion. Thus, students will be expected to come having read and engaged with the text selection for the week, and with thoughts prepared to contribute.

Classes will meet via Zoom for two hours each week and will be recorded for later viewing by students who cannot participate (but not for dissemination outside of class). Additional student participation and instructor interaction can take place on a private discussion board.

**Course Objectives:** Objectives for this course include: (1) to discuss Plato's writings (2) to appreciate the philosophical method and conclusions of this author (3) to grow our ability to dialectically inquire (4) to better understand the Christian implications for the conclusions and methods of philosophy (5) to consider what and why philosophy has the place it does in society and the church.

**Course Requirements:** Attentive and sustained participation in class is the primary requirement. For credit students may have one excused absence. Attendance also assumes you have done the reading before class and can be called upon any time to demonstrate you have done so.

**Grading for for-credit Students:** Half of your grade will be determined by that reading, weekly writing to demonstrate your reading (25%), and participation in class discussion (25%). There will also be an oral exam during finals week (50%).

**Course Text**

*Plato: The Complete Works*, Cooper, Hutchinson eds. Hackett Publishing  
 Or various editions of *The Republic* and *Symposium*.  
 As well as the shorter works of *Crito*, *Apology*, *Hipparchus*, *Ion*, and *Minos*.  
 Possibly other selections. Secondary literature to be emailed.

**Course Schedule**

<b>Wee k</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Discussion Topics</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	TBD	How to Read Plato	Plato's <i>Hipparchus</i> , <i>Ion</i>
2	TBD	The Death of Socrates	Plato's <i>Apology</i> , <i>Crito</i> , <i>Phaedo</i>
3	TBD	The Philosopher and the City	Plato's <i>Republic I</i>
4	TBD	The Problems of Justice	Plato's <i>Republic II-V</i>
5	TBD	The City in Speech	Plato's <i>Republic V-VI</i>
6	TBD	Human Nature & Human Ends	Plato's <i>Republic VII-X</i>
7	TBD	Lover and Beloved	Plato's <i>Symposium</i>

8	TBD	Socrates' Theory of Love	Plato's <i>Symposium</i>
9	TBD	Alcibiades Eulogy to Socrates	Plato's <i>Symposium</i>
10	TBD	Theory of Law and Nature	Plato's <i>Minos</i>