

Syllabus: The Historical Socrates 16:190:683
Fall Semester 2002, Rutgers University
Lowell Edmunds

Premises and goals:

It is notoriously difficult to distinguish the philosophical doctrines of Socrates from those of Plato. The difficulty has been growing in recent years. Stylometric and other studies have called into question the standard chronological-developmental account of the dialogues, which groups them into an early, a middle, and a late period and regards Plato as progressively moving away from Socrates. If the earliness of a certain group of dialogues is now becoming questionable, then the historical Socrates once believed to be discernible in these dialogues becomes more uncertain.

This seminar is not taking the via Platonica and the destination is not Socrates the philosopher. We concentrate on another Socrates, who is to some extent recoverable by conventional methods of historical and literary analysis. This is Socrates the Athenian, a distinctive, eccentric personality. We study several aspects of his notorious *atopia*.

This alternate approach, which will be under constant discussion and redefinition *as an approach*, is not in principle reductive or trivializing. In recent years, philosophers have sometimes pointed out that, for Socrates and Plato, philosophy was not, as in the modern sense, a matter of general propositions and intellectual methods but a way of life. In studying Socrates the Athenian, we are studying a particular way of life that was to have a profound effect on Plato and thus on the history of Western philosophy. Whether anything about the effect can be predicted from the way of life is a question that is not ruled out but probably lies beyond the ambition of this seminar.

Evaluation:

Based on two short papers (ca. 6 pages), participation in class, and final examination. Final will be translation of a passages or passages read during the semester.

Texts, commentaries, etc.:

Reserve list (Graduate Reserve, Alexander, 3rd floor): distributed at first meeting.

R = Graduate Reserve, Alexander, 3rd floor

For Xen. *Mem.*: Dorion 2000; Gigon 1953-56; 1956; Laurenti 1961; Delatte 1933.

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Texts suggested for purchase:

Xenophon, *Memorabilia, etc.*, trans. E.C. Marchant et al. Loeb Classical Library.
Plato, *Euthyphro, etc.*, trans. H.N. Fowler. Loeb Classical Library.

bold type = item on the Ph.D. reading list

Week 1 Mon. Sept. 8

Organizational meeting. Regressive assignment: Taylor 1998.

Week 2 Mon. Sept. 15 Trial, Imprisonment, and Death of Socrates (1) Question of Plato, *Apology* as a “touchstone” (Vlastos) for the historical Socrates.

Pl. *Apology* in Greek, with any school commentaries and De Strycker R; Xen. *Apology*; **Xen. *Memorabilia* 1.1.1-1.2.8; 1.2.62-64**

De Strycker 1994 R; Brickhouse and Smith 1989 R; ed. 2002 R; Hansen 1995; Morrison 2000; Gray 1989; 1998; Rankin 1987?

Week 3 Mon. Sept. 22 No meeting of seminar. (In order to complete fourteen meetings, the seminar continues into Week 15. See below.)

Week 4 Mon. Sept. 29 Trial, Imprisonment, and Death of Socrates (2)

Pl. *Crito*; Pl. *Euthyphro* in Greek, with any school commentaries;
Xen. *Memorabilia* 1.3.1-4

Gigon 1953-56; Gray 1989; 1998.

Week 5 Mon. Oct. 6 Trial, Imprisonment, and Death of Socrates (3)

Pl., *Phaedo* in Greek, as much as possible; the rest in trans.

Week 6 Mon. Oct. 13 Daimonion

Pl. *Alc.* 1 103a5, 105d5-106a1; *Apol.* 31c8-d1 (charge), 40a4-c3 (did not oppose me today), 41d6 (ditto); *Euthyphr.* 3b5-7; *Euthd.* 272e1-273a2; *Phdr.* 242b8-c3; *Rep.* 496c4; *Theaet.* 151a4; cf. *Symp.* 203a; [Plato] *Theages*
Xen.: *Apol.* 4-5, 10, 12, 13; ***Mem.* 1.1.2-4, 9; 1.4.2 (?); 4.3.1-18; 4.8.1, 5-6; *Symp.* 8.5.**

Joyal 2000 R; Kleve 1986; McPherran 1996 R; Smith and Woodruff, ed. 2000 R.

Week 7 Mon. Oct. 20 Socrates in the milieu of pederasty (1)

Pl. *Symposium* 212c-end in Greek with Dover.

Pl. *Charmides* 153a-156e

Xen. *Symposium*; **Xen. Mem. 1.3.8-15**; 2.6.1-39 esp. 28-32; 3.11.1-18

Dover 1980; Huß, Bernhard. 1999a; 1999b; Eide 1996; Nehamas 1999.

Orthodoxy on Greek pederasty: Dover 1978; Foucault 1990; Halperin 1990; 1995; 1996.

Anti-orthodoxy: Thomsen 2001; Hubbard 1998.

Other: Halperin 2002; Nussbaum and Sihvola, ed. 2002; Wohl 1999; 2003.

First paper due.

Week 8 Mon. Oct. 27 Socrates in the milieu of pederasty (2)

Pl., *Phaedrus*; *Lysis*.

Week 9 Mon. Nov. 3 Socrates and the Sophists

Xen. Mem. 1.6.1-15 (Antiphon); 4.2.1-40 (conversion of Euthydemus); **Protagoras B frags. in D-K.**

Ford 2001; Gagarin 000; Pendrick 000; Kerferd 1976; Nehamas 1999; Wallace 1998.

Week 10 Mon. Nov. 10 Socrates and the Minor Socratics

Aeschines. Frags. on Alcibiades in Dittmar.

Anon. Socraticus. Gronewald, Michael. 1985. *Kölner Papyri* [=Abhandlungen der Rheinisch-westfälische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Sonderreihe Papyrologica Coloniensia 7 (Opladen)] 5: 33-53.

Giannantoni, Gabriele. 1983. *Socraticorum Reliquiae*. 4 vols. Rome: Bibliopolis.

Dittmar 1912; Döring 1984; Field [1930]1948.

Week 11 Mon. Nov. 17 Socrates and the Socratic Schools. Philosophic school as a social-political phenomenon. What was a school? What did Socrates have to do with their origins?

Döring 1998; Lynch and Ostwald: 1994; Rossetti 1984; White 2000.

Week 12 Mon. Nov. 24 Irony

Aristotle *EN* 1108a19-23; 1127a13-b32; study of *efirvn-* words and their word fields in Plato; Cicero *de Orat.* 2.67 (Socrates an example); Quintilian 6.2.15; 8.6.54-59; 9.2.44-46 (Socrates an example).

Cotter 1992; Edmunds 1987; Gooch 1987; Miller 1996; Vasiliou 1999; 2002; Vlastos 1971. [1987]1991.

Week 13 Mon. Dec. 1 **Aristophanes, *Clouds*** (1) Question of the historicity of the Socrates portrait.

Also *Ar. Av.* 1282, 1553-55; *Ran.* 1491-95.

Dover 1968; Guidorizzi 1996; Kleve 1983. See separate bibliography for work on *Clouds* since 1990.

Week 14 Mon. Dec. 8 **Aristophanes, *Clouds*** (2)

Second paper due.

Week 15

Mon. Dec. 15 Last meeting of seminar. Conclusions.

Week 16

Mon. Dec. 22 Final Examination.



Week Prosopography

Socratic circle(s). Sussition? Hetaereia? Relation of domicile (deme) to degree of closeness to Socrates (cf. Nails 2002 R: Appendix III ["Athenian Affiliation," etc.]).

Monoson 2000; Nails 1995 R; 2002; Rossetti 1976; Rowe 1998; Vidal-Naquet 1984.

Week Physiognomy and portraiture

[Pl.] *Alc.* 122b; descriptions of Socrates in Pl. and Xen.; frags. of Phaedo, *Zopyrus*; Cic. *Fat* 10; *Tusc.* 4.80; description of Meletus in Pl. *Euthphr.*

Blome 1999; Hoffer 1998; Nehamas 1998; 1998 (chs. 4 and 5); Richter 1965;
Rossetti 1980; Voutiras 1994; Zanker 1995.

Week Dreams of Socrates

Pl. *Apol.* 33c; *Crit.* 44a-b; *Phaed.* 60d-61a; cf. *Tht.* 201d-202c.

Antiphon on dreams

Susanetti, Davide. 000. *Sinesio di Cirene: I sogni*. Studi e Commenti, 10. Bari:
Adriatica Editrice.

Brillante 1991; Cambiano 1980; Joly 1984; Lesher 1969; Palm 1933; Roochnik 2001;
van Lieshout 1980.