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Office: Miller 104

Fall 2015
Mon/Thurs 3
Hardenbergh B4

My scholarship is available at: <https://rutgers-nj.academia.edu/AzzanYadinIsrael>

Plato (190:352; 730:352)

This course offers an introductory survey of Plato's writings, examining the development of his thought through different dialogues. I emphasize the emergence of the doctrine of the Forms, and the tension between this doctrine and the political dimension of Plato's philosophy. Plato's writings are the focus of the course, and a significant amount of class time will be devoted to discussion and analysis. All readings are in English and no prior familiarity with the topic is assumed.

Required Text: John Cooper, editor, *Plato: Complete Works* (ISBN: 978-0872203495). This book is *not* in the Rutgers bookstore, but is readily available through Amazon, bn.com, etc. Readings other than Plato's dialogues are available on Sakai. Note: Week 3's reading, *The Apology*, is available on Sakai, but subsequent dialogues are not.

Final Grade will be determined as follows:

- i. Class participation and preparedness: 20%
- ii. Two exams over the course of the semester: 15% each
- iii. Paper (6-8 pages): 25%
- iv. Final: 25%

Please bring the readings assigned on that day to class.

Plagiarism and cheating will be penalized according to the full extent of University policy. Please see the student resources available on Rutgers' academic integrity site:

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students/>

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy on the day that they are due.

My office hours are held on Wednesdays, 11:30-12:30, at 104 Miller Hall.

Week 1: Introduction

9/3 Overview of the course; Plato and Athens

I. THE EARLY DIALOGUES

Week 2: Background: The Sophists

9/8-9/10 Note: Monday classes are held on the Tuesday after Labor Day! (Ah, Rutgers)

Reading: Protagoras of Abdera, *Selections*; Gorgias of Leontini, *Selections*; Paul Woodruff, "Rhetoric and Relativism: Protagoras and Gorgias". For a helpful overview see: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/sophists/>

Week 3 Apology (available on Sakai)

9/14 **No Class. Rosh Ha-Shanah, the Jewish New Year**

9/17 Reading: Plato, *Apology*; Blyth, "Socrates' Trial and Conviction of the Jurors."
Due: 1-2 page paper, "Present and Critique Blyth's Argument."

Week 4 Euthyphro

9/21 Reading: Plato's *Euthyphro*; Rosen, "Piety and Justice in Plato's *Euthyphro*."

9/24 **No Class. Yom Kippur**

Week 5 Socrates in the Early Dialogues

9/28 Reading: Vlastos, "Socrates' Disavowal of Knowledge"; Nehemas, "What did Socrates Teach and to Whom?"

10/1 **First Exam**

II THE DOCTRINE OF THE FORMS

Week 6 Parmenides and Heraclitus

10/5 Reading: Parmenides, *Poem*; Sedley, "Parmenides and Melissus."

10/8 Reading: Heraclitus, *Fragments*; Hussey, "Heraclitus."

Week 7 The Forms

10/12-10/15 Reading: Plato, *Meno* (focus on 63e-78c; 95a-107b); Vlastos, "The Philosophical Economy of the Theory of Ideas."

Week 8 The Forms

10/19-10/22 Reading: Plato, *Symposium* (focus on 201d-223d); White, "Virtue in Plato's Symposium."

Week 9 The Forms

10/26-10/29 Reading: Plato, *Republic* Books V-VII; Fine, "Knowledge and Belief in Republic V-VII."

Week 10: The Forms and the Material World

11/2-11/5 Reading: Plato, *Cratylus*; Sedley, "The Etymologies of the Cratylus"; **Due 11/5: paper topic and list of primary and secondary sources**

Week 11: The Forms and the Material World

11/9 Reading: Plato, *Statesman*; Schofield, "The Disappearance of the Philosopher King."

11/12 **Second Exam**

Week 12: The Forms and the Material World

11/16-11/19 Reading: Democritus, *Fragments*; Plato, *Timaeus* 17a-47e; Broadie and Kenney, "The Creation of the World."

Week 13: The Forms and the Material World

11/23-11/26 Reading: Plato, *Timaeus* 48a-92c; Sedley, "The Ideal of Godlikeness."

Week 14: The Forms and the Political

11/30-12/3 Reading: Plato, *Phaedo* 65b-66d and 79d-e; *Republic* 476a-b; Azzan Yadin-Israel, "The Political Cosmology of the *Timaeus*" **12/3: paper due by 4 pm at 12 College Avenue.**

Week 15: Conclusion

12/7-12/10 Plato, the Forms, and the Political.