

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline
Fall 2021**

**Philosophy Course Number: 3170G
*Plato's Republic***

Winter 2021

In person lectures, Wednesday 10:30-12:30
and Friday 10:30-11:30. TC-343.

Instructor: Devin Henry
Office: StH 3141

Office Hours: Wed/Thurs 12-1 pm
519-661-2111 x 85876
dhenry3@uwo.ca

**This course outline was developed in early June. It may be subject to change. For the most accurate information you should rely on the course outline posted on OWL at the start of the course, which supersedes this outline.*

DESCRIPTION

This course is a comprehensive examination of one of Plato's most famous dialogues, the *Republic*. The ostensible question of the *Republic* is, 'What is Justice?' But the *Republic* deals with a whole host of philosophical issues, ranging from tough ethical questions (Why should I be moral?), to metaphysical questions about the nature of reality (Can we trust our senses?), to questions about education (Should the State be in the business of moral development?), to aesthetic questions (What grounds our judgements about beauty?). This course is suited to all students, both philosophy majors and students from other disciplines, whether this is your first journey through the *Republic* or whether you have travelled this road before.

Overview of Plato's *Republic*: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato-ethics-politics/>

TEXTS

Required: Plato's *Republic*.

There are several good translations of the *Republic* available. The UWO Bookstore will carry the Grube/Reeve translation, and I will use the translation in Cooper (ed.) *Plato: Complete Works*. Other translations are acceptable. But they should include **Stephanus pagination** (<https://bit.ly/3iB0WLg>) so you can follow the textual references used throughout the course. for

easy reference. Most online translations do NOT have that, so I would avoid them except in a pinch.

Suggested:

Students who want more out of the course may wish to consult the *Blackwell Guide to Plato's Republic* and the *Cambridge Companion to Plato's Republic*. They contain scholarly articles that will help guide you through the dialogue.

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

Four short textual analyses*	20% (5% each)
Essay One.	30%
Essay Two.	40%
Participation**	10%

*See OWL for instructions and due dates.

**The participation grade is determined entirely on the basis of OWL forum posts. No portion of the grade depends on attending the in person classes.

Late Paper/Extensions Policy. [1] Papers must be submitted through OWL by 11:00 pm on the day they are due. Late penalties are 3% per day (starting at 11:01 pm on the due date) for a maximum of 5 days, after which the assignment will not be accepted. [2] Since the essays are both over 30%, any extensions must be sought through the Academic Counsellor's Office of your home faculty. I cannot grant extensions, so please do not ask. [3] SRAs (self-reported absence). Note that the SRA system cannot be used for assignments over 30%. So they cannot be used for essays.

COVID-19 POLICY

All students must adhere to Western's vaccine policy:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section3/mapp311_covid19.pdf

Students are also required to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Western policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or religious reasons must seek formal accommodation through Accessible Education at aew@uwo.ca. Students are expected not to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place.

Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks. Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Department, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

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.

SELF- REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

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.