

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

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Greek 9902A
Plato's *Phaedo*
Course Outline

Autumn 2021

A close reading of Plato's *Phaedo*. This work is one of the middle dialogues, a group which also includes such masterpieces as the *Symposium* and the *Republic*, and it details the final hours of Socrates' life. Here Plato offers a striking account of philosophy as a kind of 'training' for death (67e), as well as important arguments for the immortality of the soul. In addition to the philosophical importance of the text, Plato reflects the influence of the mystery religions. Plato was arguably the finest writer of Classical Greek prose, and, accordingly, the *Phaedo* stands as a central work of both philosophy and literature in general. This course will place considerable emphasis on Plato's style and use of language.

Course Requirements:

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| • Mid-term test (end of Oct. 2021) | 20 % |
| • Research Paper: | |
| ○ Class Presentation | 10 % |
| ○ Essay (due end of term) | 30% |
| • Sight test (to be scheduled) | 10% |
| • Final exam (during the December exam period) | 30% |

Prescribed Texts:

C. J. Rowe, *Plato: Phaedo* (Cambridge 1993)