

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL STUDIES

C. G. Brown
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Greek 9902B
Plato's *Republic* 1
Course Outline

Winter 2025

A close reading of the first book of Plato's *Republic*. This work is one of the middle dialogues, a group which also includes such masterpieces as the *Symposium* and the *Phaedrus*, and it raises the important question of the nature of justice. That this question is not in fact answered has led some scholars to think that the book was originally an early aporetic dialogue, but it does lay the foundation for the rest of the *Republic*, in which Plato develops his controversial vision of an ideal state that is founded upon the true nature of justice. Plato was arguably the finest writer of classical Greek prose, and, accordingly, the *Republic* 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, as well as the relation of Plato's thought to the intellectual debates of the fifth and fourth centuries BCE.

Course Requirements:

- Mid-term test (Feb. 25, 2025) 20 %
- Research Paper:
 - Class Presentation 10 %
 - Essay (due end of term) 30%
- Sight test (to be scheduled) 10%
- Final exam (during the April exam period) 30%

Prescribed Texts:

D. Sansone, *Plato: Republic Book 1* (Cambridge 2023)

University Policies:

Scholastic offences

If plagiarism or AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes and/or drafts of assignments (as applicable) after the assignment or essay has been submitted. Students must keep all notes and first drafts until the assignment is returned to them.

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) or speak to the Graduate Chair.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.