

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

**3170G: Plato's *Republic***

<b>Winter 2023</b> Online	<b>Instructor: N/A</b>
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**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/>

The course will be conducted asynchronously online. Students will be expected to listen to a series of weekly podcast-style lectures that take you through the main issues and ideas of Plato's *Republic*. All content can be found on the OWL site.

**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

Three short exegetical assignments	15% (5% each)
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Essay One	35%
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Essay Two	45%
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\*See OWL for instructions, due dates, and late policies.

## POLICY ON THE USE OF A.I.

The use of AI technology to generate content for assignments, revise original content, or otherwise enhance your work is not permitted in this course. All work must be submitted through [turnitin.com](https://turnitin.com) (on OWL), which uses AI-detection software. If your assignment is flagged by the AI-detection software, you may be asked to meet with the instructor (over Zoom) to discuss the content of your assignment as a means of verifying that you wrote it. In that event, the grade for the assignment would be partially dependent on the outcome of that discussion.

## 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](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](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](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.