

HSL 754: The Philosophy of Plato
Ist Semester, 2018-19

Arudra Burra
Department of Humanities and Social Science
Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi

Course packet I: The early dialogues

1. *Apology*
2. *Crito*
3. *Euthyphro*
4. *Phaedo* (death scene, 114d-118a)

All translations by G M A Grube, revised by John Cooper

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Course packet II: Background material

1. Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, excerpts from *Plato at the Googleplex*:
 - “Prologue”
 - “Man Walks into a Seminar Room”
 - “In the Shadow of the Acropolis”
2. John Rawls, excerpts from *Lectures on the History of Moral Philosophy*
3. John M. Cooper, “Introduction,” from *Plato: Complete Works*, ed. John M. Cooper

Supplementary readings

4. Richard Kraut, “Introduction to the Study of Plato,” from *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*
5. Gregory Vlastos, excerpt from “Socrates *contra* Socrates in Plato,” from *Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher*

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Course packet III: Apology

Required readings

1. Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, "Socrates Must Die," from *Plato at the Googleplex*
2. David Leibowitz, "Title and Preliminary Considerations," from *The Ironic Defense of Socrates*

Supplementary readings

3. Paul Millet, "The Trial of Socrates Revisited"
4. Deborah Nails, "Socrates," from *The People of Plato*

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Reading packet IV: Crito

Required

1. David Bostock, "The Interpretation of Plato's 'Crito'"
2. Philip Soper, "Another Look at the *Crito*"

Optional

1. M. B. E. Smith, "Is There a *Prima Facie* Obligation to Obey the Law?"
2. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
3. John Rawls, "The Justification of Civil Disobedience"
4. Vinit Haksar, "The Right to Civil Disobedience"

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Reading packet V: Euthyphro

Required

1. M.F. Burnyeat, "The Impiety of Socrates"
2. Mark L. McPherran, from "Justice and Pollution in the Euthyphro"
3. Brickhouse and Smith, from *Plato and the Trial of Socrates*

Optional

1. P. T. Geach, "Plato's *Euthyphro*: Analysis and Commentary"
2. Lindsay Judson "Carried Away in the *Euthyphro*"

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Reading packet VI: Republic

Required

1. Julia Annas, introduction from *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*
2. C. D. C. Reeve, introduction and synopsis to *Republic*
3. Plato, *Republic*, Book I, trans. C. D. C. Reeve

Optional

1. G R. F. Ferrari, introduction to *Republic*
2. Malcolm Schofield, "Approaching the Republic," in *The Cambridge History of Greek and Roman Political Thought*

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Reading packet VII: Republic II-III

Required

1. Plato, *Republic*, Books II-III, trans. C. D. C. Reeve

Optional

1. Julia Annas, “The Form of Plato’s Argument” and “The Just Society”
from *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*

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Reading packet VIII: Republic IV-V

Required

1. Plato, *Republic*, Books IV-V, trans. C. D. C. Reeve

Optional

1. Julia Annas, “Parts and Virtues of State and Soul” and “The Defence of Justice” from *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*

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Reading packet IX: Republic VI-VII

Required

1. Plato, *Republic*, Books VI-VII, trans. C. D. C. Reeve

Optional

1. Julia Annas, “Belief, Knowledge, and Understanding” and “Understanding the Good: Sun, Line, and Cave” from *An Introduction to Plato’s Republic*