

# PHIL 301 A01 (12527) | PLATO

Fall 2018, University of Victoria

Department of Philosophy

Course website: available at <http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>

## Instructor & Contact Information

Dr. Clifford Roberts ([cliffordroberts@uvic.ca](mailto:cliffordroberts@uvic.ca))

Office hours: Fri 12:45-2:30pm (or by appt.)

Office: CLE B318

## Meeting Times & Place

Tue–Wed–Fri 9:30-10:20am

Room: TBA

## Course Description

This course surveys some of the work of the ancient Greek philosopher, Plato (428/7-348/7 BCE). A student of Socrates and a teacher of Aristotle, Plato is one of the most influential and important figures in the history of Western thought. The mathematician and philosopher A. N. Whitehead remarked that: "the safest general characterization of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato." It is no surprise, therefore, that today, more than 2300 years later, Plato's ideas and methods continue to excite interest and reflection. Plato thought rigorously and systematically about a dizzying variety of topics. In this course we will consider some of his ideas, arguments and theories in political philosophy, moral theory, metaphysics, epistemology, and psychology. We will discuss such questions as: what is the best form of socio-political organization? What is justice? How do we come to know anything? What is knowledge?

## Course Evaluation

Students must submit a digital copy of each of the assignments through CourseSpaces and by the assignment deadline.

### (1) Essays

Value: 1<sup>st</sup> essay = 25%, 2<sup>nd</sup> essay = 35%, 3<sup>rd</sup> essay = 35% (total = 95%)

Length: 1<sup>st</sup> essay = 1500 – 2100 words; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> essays = 2500-3000 words (per essay)

Assignment: Students must write a paper of the relevant length on one of a selection of topics provided by the instructor. Each assignment will be provided 2 – 3 weeks before the due date. Further information will be provided with each assignment.

Due dates: see course schedule.

(2) Class participation

Value: 5%

This will be based on both class attendance and contributions to class. While this course is primarily lecture based, there will be time allotted each class for questions and students are strongly encouraged to raise questions during the lecture.

Course Grading

Grades	GPV	Percentage	Description
A+	9	90-100	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
A	8	85-89	
A-	7	80-84	
B+	6	77-79	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
B	5	73-76	
B-	4	70-72	
C+	3		
C	2		

and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

### Technology in Classroom

Some students require laptops or voice recognition apps for their learning strategies, so I do not prohibit their use in the classroom. However, studies demonstrate that multi-tasking reduces the performance of other nearby students, so anyone caught on social media, internet surfing, etc. will be asked to leave and potentially subject to disciplinary action.

### Academic Advising

For information about declaring a program, academic concessions or interpreting your CAPP report, please visit Undergraduate Advising (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/>) or make an appointment with an adviser.

### Territory Acknowledgment

The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, E squimalt and WSA NE peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, please visit the Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/>.

### Course Schedule

Dates	Assignments
<u>Week 1:</u> Sep 5 & 7	No reading.
<i>Meno</i>	
<u>Week 2:</u> Sep 11, 12 & 14	Reading: **1 <sup>st</sup> Essay Topics Assigned on Sep 16**
<i>Phaedo</i>	
<u>Week 3:</u> Sep 18, 19 & 21	Reading: 59c-84b
<u>Week 4:</u> Sep 25, 26 & 28	Reading: 84c-118a
<i>Republic</i>	

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