

PHIL 490 A02(1256)

How to Get Everything from Just One Thing:

3ORWLQXV - 0HWDSK\VLFD0 0RQLV

Fall 2018, University of Victoria

Department of Philosophy

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

Instructor & Contact Information

Dr. Clifford Roberts cliffordroberts@uvic.ca

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

Office: CLEB318

Meeting Times & Place

Tue/Wed/Fri 11:30am-12:20pm

Room: TBA

Course Description

The late antique philosopher Plotinus (AD 205-270) is one of the most significant thinkers in the history of Western philosophy. Sometimes, G H V F U L E H G D V W K H í, p D R V Q W D Q U F L V W R V and Plato have had a greater influence on the history of philosophy. Plotinus developed a subtle and complex philosophical system that stands as the culmination of a tradition of thought that stretches all the way back to Plato. Plato's Platonism² stretching all the way back to Plato. Plotinus developed a subtle and complex philosophical system that stands as the culmination of a tradition of thought that stretches all the way back to Plato. Plotinus synthesized Platonic thought with both Aristotelian and Stoic philosophy. Plotinus most shocking synthesis was of apparently disparate philosophical outlooks but his radical metaphysical monism. Plotinus identifies a single causal and explanatory principle of reality which he calls the One. The One is not merely the foundational principle of reality; it also comprises the totality of reality. All there really is the One. How is this possible? In this course, we will focus on metaphysics. We will attempt to understand not only how Plotinus conceived the One and its role in the production of reality, but also his conception of reality as structured and constituted by two other elements, Soul and Intellect.

Course Texts

Required [E] = Emilsson, Eyjólfur K Plotinus (Routledge, 2017). Available at the bookstore

[P] = Plotinus. Enneads. Readings will be available in Course Spaces.

Course Evaluation

Students must submit a digital copy of each of the assignments through Course Spaces by the assignment deadline.

(1) Essays

Value: 1st essay = 30%; 2nd essay = 45% (total = 75%)

Length: • 2400 words per essay)

Assignment: Students must write a paper of the relevant length on one of a selection of topics provided by the instructor. Further information will be in assignment.
Due dates: see course schedule when topics are assigned. Add papers as due

(2) CI5n1.4m6s

Important Dates

Please consult the University of Victoria Academic Year Important Dates for information about last possible dates to withdraw from courses without penalty, examinations period start/end dates, and so on <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar20-09/general/dates.html>

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 tasking reduces the performance of other nearby students, so any amount 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 considerations 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, Esquimalt D Q G : 6 É 1 (ü S H R S O H V R Q Z K R V H W U D G L W L R Q D O W H U U I 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	<i>Plotinus' Heritage Plato Aristotle & the Stoics</i> Reading: [E] chap. 1
<i>\$ Q 2 X W O L Q H R I 3 O R W L Q X V . 0 H W D S K I V</i>	
<u>Week 2</u> Sep 1, 12 & 14	Reading [E] chap. 2; [P] V. 5-2
<i>Intellect: Its Essence & Accidents</i>	
<u>Week 3</u> Sep 18, 19 & 21	Thinking & Selfthinking Reading [E] chap. 4; [P] V. 3 1-11
<u>Week 4</u> Sep 2, 26 & 28	The Forms Reading [P] V. 5. 1

