

Instructor: David Scott  
Classroom Location: DSB C130  
Class Meeting Times: Mon. & Thurs. 11:30 – 12:50  
Instructor's Office: CLE B320  
Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 – 10:30 (Zoom, by appointment).  
Email: [djfscott@uvic.ca](mailto:djfscott@uvic.ca)  
Telephone: 250-721-7517

**ABOUT THIS COURSE:**

In this course we shall examine some of the main works of Aristotle, whose writings are

allow you to work from the same page (literally and figuratively) as everyone else in the class.

NOTE: As mentioned, the text used in this course is a translation of Aristotle's writings. Because many students initially find reading Aristotle quite difficult, whether in the original Greek (for students who know Greek) or in translation, they sometimes find it helpful to consult different translations. UVic's library has an electronic version of a different translation from the one used in this course. It is titled *The Complete Works of Aristotle* (2 volumes), and all of the works we will be studying in this course can be found either in Volume I or Volume II. Here is the link:

<http://pm.nlx.com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/xtf/view?docId=aristotle/aristotle.00.xml;chunk.id=div.aristotle.pmpreface.1;toc.depth=2;toc.id=div.aristotle.pmpreface.1;hit.rank=0;brand=default>

### **BREAKDOWN OF PRIMARY COURSE READINGS** (subject to slight change):

#### A. Works of Primary Focus:

*Categories*, pp. 1-12.

*Physics*, pp. 83-103; pp. 112-131; pp. 137-144.

*Metaphysics*, pp. 221-240; pp. 244-250; pp. 270-279; pp. 311-314; pp. 315-344.

*De Anima*, pp. 169-202.

*Nicomachean Ethics*, pp. 347-376; 398-410; pp. 429-431; 433-445.

#### B. Works of Secondary Focus:

*De Interpretatione*, p. 13.

*Posterior Analytics*, pp. 66-68.

*De Generatione et Corruptione*, pp. 146-158; pp. 161-168.

### **MARKING SCHEME:**

(a) in-class test (25%); (b) take-home essay (35%); (c) final exam (40%).

All grading in this course will done by the course instructor (not by teaching assistant).

Letter grades correspond to the following marks: A+ = 90 - 100, A = 85 - 89, A- = 80 - 84, B+ = 77 - 79, B = 73 - 76, B- = 70 - 72, C+ = 65 - 69, C = 60 - 64, D = 50 - 59, F = 0 - 49.

### **MAIN EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

The criteria I use to evaluate essays are, I believe, criteria which common sense would suggest in the assessment of philosophical writing. Primarily my concern is with content

or substance, i.e., the course material; and in this respect the guiding question concerns the extent to which a student has understood the material.

In indicating the evaluation criteria for this course, I emphasize that philosophy is an arts or humanities subject, which means that assessing the merits of philosophical writing ultimately requires qualitative evaluation or judgment on my part. Therefore, I do not assign precise numerical values to the following assessment criteria; nor is there a mathematical formula I can employ to judge the quality of your work. However, as a rough guide I employ a list of relative priorities, presented here in ascending order of importance:

- spelling/grammar
- organization & clarity of expression
- accuracy of exposition
- use of examples reflecting understanding of the subject
- breadth of analysis, i.e., number of points covered
- depth of analysis, i.e., how far into the issue analysis is pushed
- resourcefulness, originality and imagination
- tightness, rigor or logical coherence of analysis
- overall quality of philosophical insight and expression

I emphasize that, with the exception of the last criterion—that of overall quality of philosophical insight and expression—in practice the ranking of these criteria is not

In this course class attendance is also required for students wishing to discuss class content during office hours. While students are welcome and encouraged to come to office hours to discuss class content, to do so students must first have attended class, or at least have listened to the recordings of the relevant missed class(es) that are posted on Brightspace. Student use of office hours should function primarily as supplement to

create, such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.

Professionalism is expected from all students enrolled in courses in the Faculty of Humanities. As part of professionalism, students, faculty and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the Tri-Faculty's Standards for Professional Behaviour.

Please be advised that by logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources, and by attending class, you are engaging in a university activity.

All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct, may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the apludSt2 51.12 ].eTd(F)Tj12 0 0CID 5 BDC dd4 (xpe)4 (c)-6 (t)-( r)3 (e)4 (3(t)v(t)-( r)3



b) Your graded work will be returned either through Brightspace or in class (in person), within two weeks of its having been submitted. (Because I do not use graduate students to grade your assignments, returning your work often takes longer than it does in courses in which graduate students are used as graders.)

When your graded work is returned to you it will frequently be annotated with comments. If you wish to discuss your graded work with me, please read those comments first. To give you a chance to do this, as a matter of policy I do not discuss work on the same day as it is returned.

In cases when I return graded work in class (in person), it is *up to students* to claim their work: I am not responsible for tracking students down to deliver their work. Normally I will bring graded papers to class thrs i to to cit.0 Td A [0.2f2 (et (ith)2 (e)m )]TJ ( c)t,0 Td ( c)n0 Tdy0 TcbV

otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity

[https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk\\_0xsM\\_V?bc=true&bcCurr=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies](https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/Sk_0xsM_V?bc=true&bcCurr=08%20-%20Policy%20on%20Academic%20Integrity&bcGroup=Undergraduate%20Academic%20Regulations&bcItemType=policies)

Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

### **COPYRIGHT NOTICE:**

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).

## **2. RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTARY READING**

One of the most extensive recent bibliographies on all aspects of Aristotle's philosophy can be found in *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Philosophy*, ed. Jonathan Barnes, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995 [listed below].

### A. Ancient Greek Philosophy Generally

Armstrong, A. H. *An Introduction to Ancient Philosophy* (London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1947). [B171 A78 1949]

Guthrie, W. K. C. *The Greek Philosophers from Thales to Aristotle* (London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1950). [B171 G8]

Irwin, Terence. *Classical Thought* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989). [B171 I77]

### B. Aristotle's Philosophy

Ackrill, J. L. *Aristotle the Philosopher* (Oxford: University Press, 1981). [B485 A3]

Allan, D. J. *The Philosophy of Aristotle* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1952). [B485 A45 1970]

Barnes, Jonathan. *Aristotle* (London, 1982). [B485 B35]

Barnes, Jonathan, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle's Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995). [B485 C35]

Catan, J. K., ed. *Aristotle: The Collected Papers of Joseph Owens* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1981). [B485 O834]



- Düring, I., & Owen, G.E.L., eds. *Aristotle and Plato in the mid-Fourth Century*, Göteborg, 1960. [B485 D832]
- Irwin, T. *Aristotle's First Principles*. [B485 I74]
- Jaeger, W. *Aristotle: Fundamentals of His Development*, trans. R. Robinson (Oxford, 1948). [B485 J33 1948]
- Lloyd, G. E. R., & Owen, G. E. L., eds. *Aristotle on Mind and the Senses* (Cambridge, 1978). [B491 M5S95 1975]
- Marx, Werner. *Introduction to Aristotle's Theory of Being as Being*, trans. Robert S. Schine, 1977. [B491 O5M3413]
- Moravcsik, J. M. E., ed. *Aristotle: A Collection of Critical Essays*. [B485 M6]
- Ross, Sir David. *Aristotle* (London: Methuen, 1964). [B485 R6 1964]
- Taylor, A. E. *Aristotle*. [B485 T27 1955]

### 3. SCHEDULE FOR COURSE

#### WEEK 1 (Classes 1 & 2: Jan. 8 & 11)

1. Mon. Jan. 8 - Intro. to Course. Intro. to Aristotle.
2. Thurs. Jan. 11 - Intro. to Aristotle. *Categories*.

#### WEEK 2 (Classes 3 & 4: Jan. 15 & 18)

3. Mon. Jan. 15 - *Categories*.
4. Thurs. Jan. 18 - *Categories*.

#### WEEK 3 (Class 5 & 6: Jan. 22 & 25)

5. Mon. Jan. 22 - *Categories*.
6. Thurs. Jan. 25 - *Categories & Physics*.

#### WEEK 4 (Classes 7 & 8: Jan. 29 & Feb. 1)

7. Mon. Jan. 29 - *Physics*.
8. Thurs. Feb. 1 - *Physics*.

#### WEEK 5 (Classes 9 & 10: Feb. 5 & 8)

9. Mon. Feb. 5 - *Physics*.  
- Preparatory test questions distributed.
10. Thurs. Feb. 8 - *Physics*.

**WEEK 6 (Classes 11 & 12: Feb. 12 & 15)**

11. Mon. Feb. 12 - **In-class test**. Essay topic assigned (due March 15 @ 5:00 p.m.).

12. Thurs. Feb. 15 - *Physics & De Anima.*

**WEEK 7 (No classes: Feb. 19 & 22)**

Feb. 19 - No Class (Reading Break)

Feb. 22 - No Class (Reading Break)

**WEEK 8 (Classes 13 & 14: Feb. 26 & 29)**

13. Mon. Feb. 26 - *De Anima.*

14. Thurs. Feb. 29 - *De Anima.*

**WEEK 9 (Classes 15 & 16: Mar. 4 & 7)**

15. Mon. Mar. 4 - *De Anima & Metaphysics.*  
Last day to drop course without failure penalty.

16. Thurs. Mar. 7 - *De Anima & Metaphysics.*

**WEEK 10 (Classes 17 & 18: Mar. 11 & 14)**

17. Mon. Mar. 11- *De Anima & Metaphysics.*

18. Thurs. Mar. 14 - *De Anima & Metaphysics.*

Fri. Mar. 15 - Essay due @ 5:00 p.m.

**WEEK 11 (Classes 19 & 20: Mar. 18 & 21)**

19. Mon. Mar. 14- *Nicomachean Ethics.*

20. Thurs. Mar. 17 - *Nicomachean Ethics.*

**WEEK 12 (Classes 21 & 22: Mar. 25 & 28)**

21. Mon. Mar. 25- *Nicomachean Ethics.*

22. Thurs. Mar. 28 - *Nicomachean Ethics.*

**WEEK 13 (Class 23: Apr. 4)**

Mon. Apr. 1 - **No Class.**

**23.** Thurs. Apr. 4 - *Nicomachean Ethics.*

**WEEK 14 (Class 24: Apr. 8)**

**24.** Mon. Apr. 8 - Last class of this course: Review.

FINAL EXAM PERIOD (April 11 – 26)

\* This schedule may be subject to slight revision, as sometimes discussion and the flow of ideas in class require us to spend more time on certain subjects, or less time on others, than originally planned.