

# PHIL 383/GRS 380 A01 (22548/21767)

## The Life & Times of Socrates

Spring 2024, University of Victoria

Department of Philosophy

Course website: <https://bright.uvic.ca/d21/home/301580> (PHIL);

<https://bright.uvic.ca/d21/home/300008> (GRS)

### Instructor & Contact Information

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

Office hours: Tue 1:30-4:30pm (or by appt.)

Office: CLE B318

### Meeting Times & Place

Tue-Wed-Fri 12:30-1:20pm

MacLaurin Building D283

### Course Description

Athens in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century bustled with remarkable figures: historians (Thucydides), comic and tragic playwrights (Aristophanes, Sophocles, Euripides), statesmen (Pericles, Alcibiades), and itinerant intellectuals-*cum*-teachers (Protagoras, Gorgias, Prodicus). All these figures continue to be studied and to exert considerable influence on the intellectual life of the present day. Yet, none among them cut such a strange and puzzling figure as the philosopher Socrates; he remains as strange and puzzling today. His methods, arguments and ideas shook ancient Athens to its foundations and he exerted a profound influence on the history of Western philosophy, but he wrote nothing at all. We owe our knowledge of his philosophical methods, arguments and ideas primarily to one of his greatest students, a philosopher whose influence and achievement eclipsed even that of his teacher: Plato. In this course, the thought of Socrates will be examined through a selection of works written by Plato. The goal of this course is to provide a  
as depicted in .

### Course Texts

Required: [PCW] *Plato: Complete Works*, ed. J. M. Cooper (Hackett, 1997)

### Course Assignments

#### (1) Take-Home Tests

**Value:** 1<sup>st</sup> = 30%, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 30%, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 35% (total value = 95%)

**Assignment:** Students will have 24-hours to answer questions covering course material.

**Due dates:** *see course schedule.*

#### (2) Participation Grade

**Value:** 5%

**Assignment:** Students will be awarded a grade on the basis of their participation in the class; this includes, but is not limited to, attending lectures.

**Course Grading**

| <b>Grade<br/>s</b> | <b>GP<br/>V</b> | <b>Percentage</b> | <b>Description</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|

*The responsibility of the student*

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If the student is unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing sources, the instructor should be consulted. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on or a suspension.

## Important Dates

**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://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/>

## 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,

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

| <b>Dates</b>                    | <b>Assignments</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <u>Week 1</u> : Jan 8-12        | <i>Some Background &amp; Context</i>   |
| <u>Week 2</u> : Jan 15-19       | <i>Laches</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 664-686   |
| <u>Week 3</u> : Jan 22-26       | <i>Charmides</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 639-663  |
| <u>Week 4</u> : Jan 29-Feb 2    | <i>Greater Hippias</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 898-921<br><b>Take-Home Test #1: Feb 4-5</b> |
| <u>Week 5</u> : Feb 5-9         | <i>Euthydemus</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 708-745   |
| <u>Week 7</u> : Feb 12-16       | <i>Euthydemus</i>  |
| <b><u>Week 8</u>: Feb 19-23</b> | <b>Reading Break</b>   |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>Week 9:</u> Feb 26-Mar 1 | <i>Gorgias</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 145-173                                  |
| <u>Week 10:</u> Mar 4-8     | <i>Gorgias</i><br><b>Take-Home Test #2: Mar 10-11</b>                          |
| <u>Week 11:</u> Mar 11-15   | <i>Lysis</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 687-707                                    |
| <u>Week 12:</u> Mar 18-22   | <i>Euthyphro</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 1-16                                   |
| <u>Week 13:</u> Mar 25-29   | <i>Apology</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 17-36                                    |
| <u>Week 14:</u> Apr 1-5     | <i>Crito</i><br>Readings: [PCW] pp. 37-48<br><b>Take-Home Test #3: Apr 7-8</b> |