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Academic Year 2021-22

**Plato**

Venue On-line (under current circumstances)

Day and Time Monday 11am to 1pm

Term Dates 27th September to 29th November 2021

No. of Meetings 10

Module taught by Mark Fielding

Fee £100

**Entrance Requirements**

The course is open to anyone with an interest and enthusiasm for the subject.

**Teaching Methods**

The module will be taught using a combination of on-line lectures, reading extracts of key texts, and class discussion.

**Course Description**

This introductory course considers Plato’s extraordinary contribution to human thought. In the questions he posed and the answers he proposed, many of our general ideas were developed.

We cover the core elements, so giving a general grounding in the beginning of thought about knowledge, reality, morality, and beauty.

**Module Content**

Week1

Early Plato — Knowledge and Virtue: *Meno*

Week 2

The art of Rhetoric: *Gorgias*

Week 3

Further into Sophistry: *Protagoras*

Week 4

The Theory of Forms 1: *Phaedo*

Week 5

The Theory of Forms 2: *Republic*

Week 6

The Theory of Forms refuted?: *Parmenides*

Week 7

The nature of Knowledge: *Theaetetus*

Week 8

The final dialogues 1: *Timaeus*

Week 9

The final dialogues 2: *Laws*

Week 10

The perfect dialogue?: *Symposium*

No additional readings are necessary, but it’s sometimes helpful to read a number of different discussions of the same problem to assist in understanding. Not all Philosophers are also clear writers!

Here are a few suggestions:

All dialogues are taken from *Plato: Complete Works*, edited by J.M. Cooper. Hackett 1997

*Understanding Plato*, David J. Melling. OPUS 1987

*Plato*, R.M. Hare. OUP 1983

*Plato: A Very Short Introduction*, Julia Annas. OUP 2003

*A Companion to Plato*, edited by Hugh H. Benson. Wiley-Blackwell 2009

*Virtues of Authenticity: Essays on Plato and Socrates*, Alexander Nehamas. Princeton UP 1998

*The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy*, Martha C. Nussbaum. Cambridge UP 2001

*The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, edited by Richard Kraut. Cambridge UP 1992

*What is Ancient Philosophy?*, Pierre Hadot. Harvard UP 2002

*Philosophy in Dialogue: Plato’s Many Devices*, edited by Gary Alan Scott. Northwestern UP, 2007