POLITICAL SCIENCE 308
Theorists and Theorizing
2:45-4:05 TuTh
Humanities 137
Section 7904

Required Books
(1) Plato. Gorgias. (Hackett).
(2) Plato. Protagoras (Hackett).
(3) Plato. Meno. (Hackett).
(6) Plato. The Republic (Basic Books).
(7) Plato. Parmenides (Hackett).

All these books can be purchased at the university bookstore as well as at Mary Jane Books. If you purchase them elsewhere, please make sure you are buying the same editions; otherwise your translations will differ and it will make it more difficult for you to participate in class discussions.

Class Requirements
(1) Class participation (15% of grade).
You will be assessed not only by the quantity but by the quality of your participation. This class will be heavily oriented toward class discussion of our readings. Obviously, you can not participate if you do not attend class. Just as obviously, you will need to complete the reading assignments on time in order to contribute to class discussion in ways that add to our understanding of the readings. Lecturing will be minimal, reading relatively light (at least in terms of amount), and discussion friendly, which means no one should be unable to contribute.

(2) Three short (approximately 5 pages) writing assignments (15% each).
These writing assignments will be based on the class readings and discussions. Your papers will be graded on both style and content.

(3) Final longer (approximately 10 pages) paper (15%).
The final paper will be a longer version of one of your three writing assignments. It should engage in more extensive analysis of the dialogue which was the subject of the assignment and also include an analysis of the secondary literature on that dialogue. It will also be graded on both style and content.

(4) Final (25%)
The final exam will be an in-class, essay exam based on the class readings and discussions.
Class Goals
(1) To achieve a good collective understanding of our readings; the goal is, again, for everyone to contribute to the process. This goal will require a careful reading (and re-reading) of our texts as well as a lot of listening and talking to each other in class.
(2) To re-consider the issue of Plato’s philosophical idealism. The famous twentieth-century British philosopher Alfred Whitehead once said that all philosophy is a series of footnotes to Plato; we want to make sure we get the footnotes right.

Academic Integrity
Students who compromise the integrity of the classroom will receive failing grades on papers and/or tests; a second violation will result in a failing grade in the class. In either case, a report will be filed with the Office of Student Conduct. Violations of academic integrity include:
(1) Cheating on examinations.
(2) Plagiarizing the work of others. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing the work of another person without proper crediting the source as well as reproducing large excerpts from previously published works (even if the source is properly credited). If you have any doubt on what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly credit sources, please consult a style book, writing manual, or the instructor (that would be me).
(3) Misrepresentation of any work done in the classroom or in preparation for class; for example, handing in the same assignment for two classes, handing in another student’s paper as one’s own, paying someone else to write a paper, or downloading papers off the internet.
(4) Disruptive behavior in a course of study or abusiveness toward faculty or fellow students.

Schedule of Reading and Writing Assignments
[all assignments should be completed by the date listed on the syllabus unless I announce otherwise in class]

- January 27: Read: Gorgias.
- January 29: Further Discussion of Gorgias.
- February 3: Read: Protagoras
- February 5: Further Discussion of Protagoras. **First Writing Assignment Handed Out**
- February 10: Read: Meno.
- February 12: Further Discussion of Meno. **First Writing Assignment Due**
- February 24: Read: Phaedo.
- February 26: Further Discussion of Phaedo.
March 3              Read: Phaedrus.
March 5              Further Discussion of Phaedrus.
                      Second Writing Assignment Handed Out
March 10            Read: Republic, Book I
March 12            Read: Republic, Book II
                      Second Writing Assignment Due
March 17            Read: Republic, Book III
March 19            Read: Republic, Book IV
March 24            Read: Republic, Book V
March 26            Read: Republic, Book VI
March 31            Read: Republic, Book VII
                      Third Writing Assignment Handed Out
April 2              No Class; Attending Midwest Political Science Convention
April 7              Read: Republic, Book VIII
                      Third Writing Assignment Due
April 14            Read: Republic, Book IX
April 16            Read: Republic, Book X
April 21            Read: Parmenides
April 23            Further Discussion of Parmenides
April 28            Secondary reading on Plato; to be assigned
April 30            Secondary reading on Plato; to be assigned
May 5               Final Paper Due
May 11              Final exam: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.