

Intro to Ancient Philosophy
T/Th 2-3:20
Spring 2009

Prof: Robert Frodeman
Asst: Keith Brown

This class will consist of a close reading of two masterworks in the history of western civilization: Plato's *Republic* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. We will read slowly, and think through the text with care—as an antidote to the excessive speed of our culture.

Texts:

1. Plato, *The Republic*, trans. Allan Bloom, Basic Books paperback.
2. Aristotle, *Introductory Readings*, edited by Irwin and Fine, Hackett paperback.
3. Occasional Handouts

Assignments:

1. *Assignments for the next class and week will be given at the end of each class.* This allows maximum flexibility for us to speed up or slow down in our readings as needs demand.
2. There will be an *assignment due each week*: either a list of questions or an analysis-response paper. A list of questions consists of at least 3 well-fashioned questions that we will develop out of your reading of the texts and/or class themes. Analysis-response papers are short (1 full page single-spaced, approximately 500 words) explorations of class themes.
3. Class presentations (*voluntary in nature, but heartily encouraged*): 5-10 minute responses to our readings that substitute for the week's assignment. A student can opt to do a class presentation rather than the week's questions or analysis-response paper. Note well: these will be graded rigorously, *especially* in terms of succinctness.

Grading:

1. Grading will be based on students' short analysis-response papers (**75%**) and participation/attendance (**25%**).
2. Lists of questions and response papers are graded in terms of check plus, check, or X (=A, C, or F). Presentations receive a grade between A and F.
3. Participation is important in this class. Classes such as this function best when everyone takes responsibility for reading the text and carrying the class debate. *Please see the accompanying "Hints" sheet for further guidelines on these points.*
4. With this emphasis on participation, regular attendance becomes crucial. Attendance is taken every day, and ***your class grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each 2 classes you miss.***

Class Rules:

1. Regular attendance, ready for discussion.
2. Cell phones on 'off'; no use of computers.

Contact Info & Office Hours:

Prof. Frodeman Email: frodeman@unt.edu 940-565-3547 ENV 320C: T/R 12:15-2, and By Appointment. Note: I do <u>NOT</u> check messages on my phone.	Keith Brown Email: pahndeepah@gmail.com 940-206-9354 ENV 225: By Appointment Only Note: I do check voicemails but prefer text messages.
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