

**Research Tutorial in Philosophy (PHIL 495)**  
**Towson University Spring 2021**  
**T/R 11-11:50 am**

**Instructor:** Cara Cummings

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**Course Description**

Catalog Description

Directed readings and research leading to a thesis paper under one or more members of the department. Prerequisites: senior majors in philosophy or senior non-major, submission in advance of an outline of proposed research; permission of proposed director and department chair. Repeatable for a maximum of 6 units provided a different topic is covered, but only one attempt will count towards the major requirements.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of questions about Plato's *Republic*. We will read it in its entirety and some secondary sources that elaborate on the myths present in it. We will also read Aristotle's critique from his own *Politics*.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have had an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy. They will also learn to construct and assess arguments for philosophical positions. Doing so will strengthen their critical thinking skills in all disciplines and even outside of academic life.

**Course Requirements**

There will be three 2-page papers (each worth 15% of the final grade) and a final 10-15-page paper (worth 45%). Participation and attendance will account for the final 10%.

Short Paper 1: Due 2/15 by 11:59 pm

Short Paper 2: Due by 3/22 11:59 pm

Short Paper 3: Due by 4/12 11: 59 pm

Final Paper: Due by 5/13 11: 59 pm

Guidelines and instructions for each assignment are available on blackboard.

**Policies & Procedures**

Grading

A: 93.6-100 A-: 90-93.5 B+: 86.6-89.9 B: 83.6-86.5 B-: 80-83.5 C+: 76.6-79.9 C: 70-76.5 D+: 66.6-69.9 D: 63.6-66.5 F: 0-63.5

Late Work

Late assignments are penalized at a rate of one letter-grade increment per day late (e.g., a B+ becomes a B- on a 2-day-late paper), up to one week. Assignments that are more than a week late will receive a zero. Deadline extensions are granted only in exceptional, *documented* circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor.

### Absences

You are allowed two unexcused absences before they will begin to affect your grade. Not counting the first week, we have 26 scheduled meetings. Your grade will be determined by dividing the number of times that you are in class (not counting the first week) by 24 (maximum 100%). See Towson's absence policy for what counts as an excused absence at [www.catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/class-attendance-absence-policy](http://www.catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/class-attendance-absence-policy).

### Students with Disabilities

This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services (DSS), 7720 York Road, Suite 232, 410-704-2638 (Voice) or 410-704- 4423 (TDD). Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from DSS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made.

### Academic Integrity

The University's Academic Integrity Policy is published in the Towson University Undergraduate Catalog and is available online at the web site of Student Affairs located at <https://www.towson.edu/studentaffairs/policies/>. Academic dishonesty specifically includes acts of plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, cheating, abuse of academic materials, and multiple submissions. Especially note that students may not re-use research papers or work submitted in previous or other classes, this includes group projects, or work performed by someone else. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. The penalty for such dishonesty is a grade of 0 for the assigned work, possible failure for the course and the submission of a letter to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

### Incompletes

An 'I' grade may be granted towards the end of the term, but only for verifiable medical reasons or for documented circumstances beyond the control of the student. This grade will not be granted if the student does not meet either of these criteria. The 'I' automatically becomes an 'F' at the end of the next full semester unless changed by the instructor because missing coursework was completed. If the conditions for granting the original incomplete verifiably persist, the instructor in consultation with the chair of the department may extend the 'I' grade for a period not to exceed an additional regular semester.

### Emergencies

Please refer to the following: Web Site: [www.towson.edu](http://www.towson.edu); Telephone: (410)704-2000.  
For TU Text Alert System Sign-up  
at [www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/police/campusemergency/](http://www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/police/campusemergency/)

### **Required Texts**

Plato's *Republic*. Any edition that you have is fine.

### **Reading Schedule**

Readings marked with \* are available on blackboard.

Week One: Plato's *Republic*

1/26: Course Introduction (No Reading)  
1/28: Book I

Week Two: Plato's *Republic*

2/2: Book I  
2/4: Book II

Week Three: Plato's *Republic*

2/9: NO CLASS  
2/11: Book II

Week Four: Plato's *Republic*

2/16: Book III  
2/18: Book III

Week Five: Plato's *Republic*

2/23: Book IV  
2/25: Book IV

Week Six: Plato's *Republic*

3/2: Book V  
3/4: Book V

Week Seven: Plato's *Republic*

3/9: Book VI  
3/11: Book VI

Week Eight: Plato's *Republic*

3/23: Book VII  
3/25: Book VII

Week Nine: Plato's *Republic*

3/30: Book VIII  
4/1: Book VIII

Week Ten: Plato's *Republic*

4/6: Book IX

4/8: Book IX

Week Eleven: Plato's *Republic*

4/13: Book X

4/15: Book X

Week Twelve: The Noble Lie

4/20: Robert Zaslavsky, *Platonic Myth and Platonic Writing* (1-19)\*

4/22: Penelope Murray, "What is a *Muthos* for Plato?"\*

Week Thirteen: Myth of Er

4/27: Julia Annas, "Plato's Myths of Judgment"\*

4/29: Julia Annas, "Plato's Myths of Judgment"\*

Week Fourteen: Myth of Er

5/4: S.P. Ward, *Penology and Eschatology in Plato's Myths*\*

5/6: S.P. Ward, *Penology and Eschatology in Plato's Myths*\*

Week Fifteen: Aristotle's Critique

5/11: *Politics* Book II\*