

LIBS 497:
Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics
Spring 2020

Class Time: F 2:00 pm-4:20 pm.

Dr. Mark A Menaldo

Talbot 131

contact: mark.menaldo@tamuc.edu

I am available most M-F, but times varies depending on various meetings I have attend. You can always drop by my office, but it is easiest that you communicate with me that you would like to meet and we can set up an appointment.

Course description:

In this course we will concentrate our attention on reading, Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics by taking a casual and leisurely approach in our reading and discussion of the text.

Learning objectives: This course will provide experiences for students to work on (1) close reading and enhancement of reading skills by carefully considering primary text materials, (2) engage in intensive writing exercises by writing short explications of texts, providing peer-to-peer feedback, and revising writing assignments, and (3) participate in high-level discussion through explication of text, short in class-writing, and peer discussion.

Class Attendance and Participation 15%

Discussant role 15%

Final Project 70%

Reading Assignments: I do not assign a set amount or pages in the syllabus because we move through the text organically. Each class session, I will stop to reflect where we are and how far in advance the students should read. Although this course does not have a heavy reading load (in pages) students are expected to read with focus and care. In addition, students take a primary role in class discussion. Be ready to participate and be called upon to answer questions.

Attendance and Class Participation: Your attendance is imperative. This class is a seminar, every week builds to the next. We only meet once a week. Commitment to the schedule is key.

Participation includes coming prepared to each class by having done the reading assigned for each class, talking in class, listening attentively to your classmates, and participating in break out session. Your grade will not just depend on the volume of your participation, as I place equal consideration on the quality of your comments and questions.

At the start of each class, a pair of students will lead class discussion (30 minutes). It is the responsibility of students to introduce some key ideas and raise questions for discussion. It is not the

discussants job to offer the class a summary of what they have read. See handout “Guidelines for Discussants”

Final Project.

The standard final project for a seminar is a final paper, 12-15 pages. Yet, for this class you have a choice. You can conceive an alternate final project. You can approach the project from any number of directions. No matter what subject you choose, you must show a serious engagement with the primary source material. And, most importantly, your project needs my approval.

Weekly Schedule.

Excluding Spring Break, we will meet every Friday at the scheduled hour in the first floor conference room. We are moving organically through the text and will get as far as we can as a group. As such, I am not assigning weekly material.

COURSE POLICIES Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct and plagiarism. Sharing or accessing someone else’s answers to exams or searching for answers on the internet during an exam constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own. Always cite sources. If questions arise regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. All cases of plagiarism and academic misconduct will be treated very seriously. All coursework is to be an original work by the student and created specifically for fulfilling the requirements for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another’s work or ideas as one’s own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. It is the student’s responsibility to: 1. research and write their own papers 2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others 3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests 4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest 2 Any act of academic dishonesty will result in the automatic failure of the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university Student Conduct All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

ADA Statement Students with Disabilities The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library- Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148 Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Nondiscrimination Notice Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status.

Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained Campus Concealed Carry Statement Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.