

LIBS 497: Plato's Republic
Dr. Mark A Menaldo
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Journalism 234
Class Time: 12:30 pm-3:00 pm.

Course description:

In this seminar, we will concentrate our attention on Plato's dialogue, The Republic. We will approach this dialogue by taking a casual and leisurely approach in our reading and discussion of it.

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 an intensive writing and (3) participate in high-level discussion through peer discussion, and discussion leaders.

Class Attendance, Peer Discussion and Student-led discussion 50%
Seminar Paper 50%

Reading Assignments: You must read the assignment material in advance of each class. Each class session, the instructor will announce how much material students should read. We move organically, and anticipate reading all 10 Books in the Republic.

Class Participation: 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 (20 minutes). It is the responsibility of students to introduce some key ideas and raise questions for discussion, paying particular attention to the text. It is not the discussants job to offer the class a summary of what they have read. Each student will lead discussion twice during the semester.

Seminar Paper: 10-12 page term paper about a theme related to the seminar text.