



UNCO 1301: The Great Conversation: reading The Republic of Plato
Spring 2022
M, W, F: 10:00-10:50

Mark A. Menaldo, Department Head and Associate Professor of Liberal Studies

Undergraduate Assistants

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Office Location: Talbot 131

Office Hours: It is important to meet your professors outside of the class, so I want to encourage you to make sure to visit my office and other faculty this semester. Most faculty have posted office hours. As the Department Head of Liberal Studies, I'm on campus M-F, and in my office for much of the day. If I am in the office, the door will be open. Please, just knock on my door. Also, you can come to speak to me right after class ends; I usually hang out after class for about 10 minutes. You can always send me an email with your available days and times, and I will send you a calendar invite to your email.

Office Phone: 903-468-3270

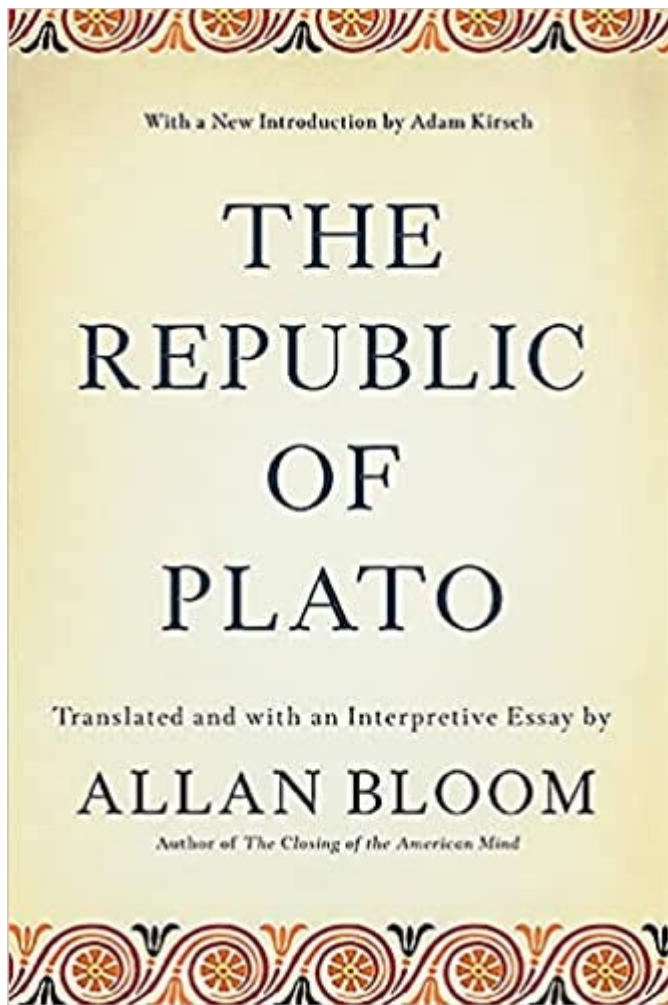
University Email Address: Mark.Menaldo@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Please email me, and you will receive a response within 24 hours, excluding weekends.

Read this: how to email a professor: <https://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: <https://www.amazon.com/Republic-Plato-Allan-Bloom/dp/0465094082>



Course Description

A Signature Course at Texas A&M University- Commerce offers first-year students the opportunity to explore unique topics in engaging learning environments. Students develop college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and social responsibility through a rigorous intellectual experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate critical thinking by employing evidence/information effectively in the explanation of an issue, idea, artifact or event and using investigative/analytical skills to explore questions or solve problems.
2. Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion in either written, oral and/or visual format with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.
4. **Students will read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences to specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.**

GRADING

I base course grades on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Assessments

Valid medical excuses and exceptional circumstances can be presented to me for missed attendance and assignments. It is my discretion to judge the circumstances surrounding your petition and whether it warrants make-up work.

Mentoring Fridays and Mentoring Meet-ups: 10%

See course schedule for specific dates and requirements.

Friday Assignments: 75%

In this class, you will write, write, and write some more. Notes, outlines, writing assignments. First, we will only work on notes and outlines. I will grade two outlines. Then, every Friday, starting on a date I established, after we have made some progress in the text, you will write a short essay about the content you read and discussed in class.

The Lionizing: 15%

The Lionizing: is a culminating event required of all sections of UNCO 1301. At this public event, students will present their work to the entire University Community.

I will determine the format of these presentations but am open to suggestions such as poster presentations, short talks, installations, oral presentations and/or proposals, et cetera. Students will be present at the Lionizing to take questions about their work.

At The Lionizing a team of assessors will circulate the event with a rubric that will evaluate how well your project:

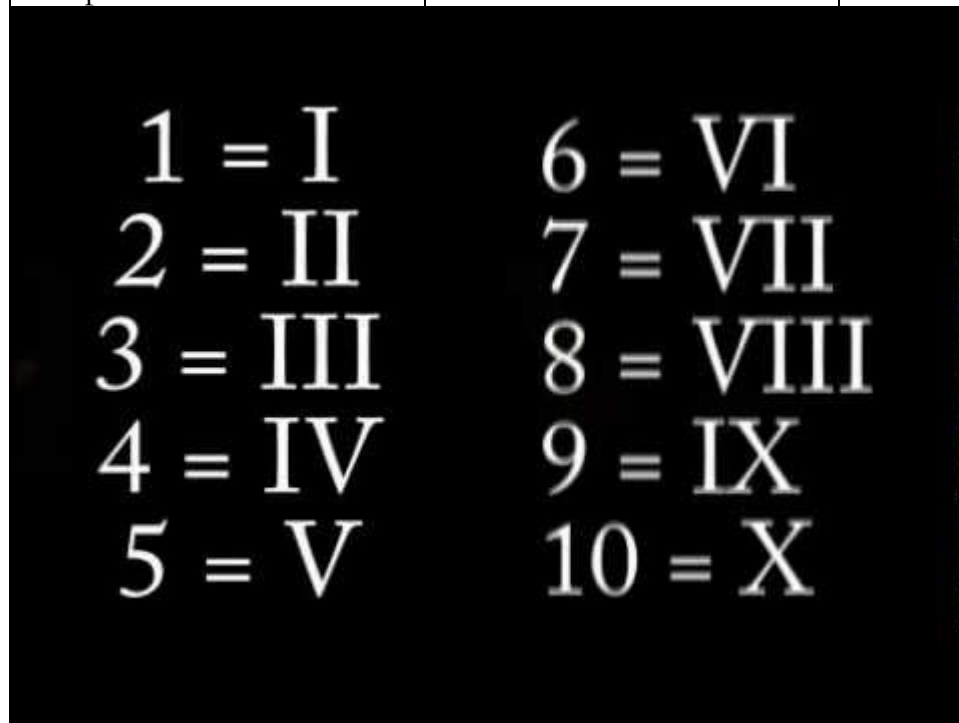
- Demonstrates critical thinking
- Demonstrates your understanding of your social responsibility
- Demonstrates your excellent written and oral communication skills

This assessment will not influence your grade; instead, it helps the University College assess how well our Signature Courses are helping students meet important outcomes. Date is TBA.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

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August 29-Sept. 2	Week 1	Getting acquainted.
September 5-9 Monday 5, Labor Day, University Closed.	Week 2	Introduction to course.
September 12-15	Week 3	Book I.
September 19-23	Week 4	Book I.
September 26-30	Week 5	Book I.
October 3-7	Week 6	Book II.
October 10-14	Week 7	Book II
October 17-21	Week 8	Book III
October 24-8	Week 9	Book III
October 31-4	Week 10	Book IV
November 7-14	Week 11	Book V
November 14-18	Week 12	Book V
November 21-25	Week 13	Book VI
November 28-December 2	Week 14	Book VI
December 5-9	Week 15	Book VII
December 14 3:00pm- 5:00pm in RSC	Week 16	Lionizing Event



TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course.

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor’s communication response time and feedback on assessments are stated clearly.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.