



B I S L A
Liberal Arts College

Plato's *Republic*

Semester: May Term
Instructor: Samuel Abraham, Cole Simmons
Meetings: Monday: 14:40 – 16:10
Tuesday S1: 12:30 – 14:00
Tuesday S2: 14:30 – 16:00
Wednesday S1: 11:00 – 12:30
Wednesday S2: 14:00 – 18:30
Thursday: 13:00 – 14:30

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CONTENT

Plato's *Republic* is an investigation into the question "what is justice?" Through this investigation, Socrates and his interlocutors examine the ideal city.

ASSIGNMENTS

There are 4 components to your grade, each of equal weight: a journal, a presentation, a paper, and participation.

Timeliness is of essence in this course.

Assignments have to be uploaded via Google Classroom by the due date. **Late submissions will incur grade penalty.**

Within 24 hours -10%,
1 to 3 days - 20%
4 to 7 days - 50%
More than a week late - 0%

Grading scale

A – 100-93%,
B – 92-84%,
C – 83-74%,
D – 73-63%,
E – 62-51%,
Fx – 50-0%.

Four or more absences result automatically in Fx.

Regular attendance of all classes is of crucial importance in this course. Much of the explanation and implementation of what we learn towards your research project will take place in the seminars and skipping them will have impact on the quality of your research proposal. As per BISLA policy, four absences are permitted during the semester (these are to be reserved for cases of illness or family emergency). Any more absences result in failing the course. Do inform me prior to missing a class.

During this semester, it is essential that we remain safe. Thus, you are expected to stay at home and inform me when you have a raised temperature, feel short of breath, exhausted, experience upset stomach, etc. Contact the NCIZ hotline to arrange for testing. Check <https://korona.gov.sk/en/> for latest information and contact numbers.

Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism will automatically result in an Fx and may be subject to disciplinary proceeding and penalties stipulated in Disciplinary Code (up to expulsion).

All assignments at BISLA should be: (a) based on *your* reading of the sources, (b) based on *your analysis* of the sources, and (c) written by you. All used sources have to be properly referenced in the text as well as in the bibliography of your papers. You may also reference lectures and class discussions—there is a way to reference everything.

Definition of plagiarism: If you use a statement, argument or idea from someone without giving them credit, you are guilty of plagiarism. You can avoid plagiarism by citing your source(s). You must cite a source in two cases: first, whenever you are using the exact wording of the source (in this case, enclose the words in quotation marks; if you add words to the quotation, use square

brackets) and, second, whenever you are summarizing or paraphrasing a statement, argument, idea or narrative from the source. If you do not do this, you are guilty of plagiarism. BISLA is using an APA style of referencing—you will find an APA manual on your Google Classroom page. Also, you can consult OWL Purdue Writing lab online or the APA blog for excellent tips and guidance.

APA formatting and style guide:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Required literature

- Plato's *Republic*

TOPICS and SCHEDULE SUMMARY

Plato's *Republic* Schedule:

Week 1: 30 pages

- Monday, May 10: Rector on **Book 1** (pages 1 through 30)
- Tuesday, May 11, Session 1: Rector on **Book 1** (pages 1 through 30)
- Tuesday, May 11, Session 2: Rector on **Book 1** (pages 1 through 30)
- Wednesday, May 12, Session 1: Rector on **Book 1** (pages 1 through 30)
- Wednesday, May 12, **Zoom Presentation & Wine**: Phil Azzie
- Thursday, May 13: Overview, Presentations, and Lunch

Week 2: 30 pages

- Monday, May 17: **Book 2** (pages 32 through 43)
 - **357a – 368a**: Glaucon and Adeimantus challenge Socrates to defend Justice for its own sake.
- Tuesday, May 18, Session 1: **Book 2** (pages 43 – 47)
 - **368a – 372d**: Founding the healthy city.
- Tuesday, May 18, Session 2: **Book 4**: (pages 95 through top of 110)
 - **419 – 434c**: Political happiness and justice.
- Wednesday, May 19, Session 1: **Book 4**: (pages 95 through top of 110)
 - **419 – 434c**: Political happiness and justice.
- Wednesday, May 19, **Zoom Presentation & Wine**: Ian Dagg
- Thursday, May 20: Overview, Presentations, and Lunch

Week 3: 34 pages

- Monday, May 24: **Book 5**: (pages 122 through 131)
 - **449a – 457c**: The first wave (equality of the sexes)
- Tuesday, May 25, Session 1: **Book 5**: (pages 131 – 147)
 - **457c – 471e**: The second wave (communism of the family)
- Tuesday, May 25, Session 2: **Book 5**: (pages 131 – 147)

- **457c – 471e**: The second wave (communism of the family)
- Wednesday, May 26, Session 1: **Book 5**: (pages 147 through 156)
 - **472a – 480**: The third wave (The rule of philosophers)
- Wednesday, May 26, **Zoom Presentation & Wine**: Randy Newell
- Thursday, May 27: Overview, Presentations, and Lunch

Week 4: 36 pages

- Monday, May 31: **Book 8**: (pages 213 through 225)
 - **545c – 550c**: Timocracy and Oligarchy
- Tuesday, June 1, Session 1: **Book 8**: (pages 225 through 232)
 - **555b – 562a**: Democracy
- Tuesday, June 1, Session 2: **Book 8**: (pages 232 through 240)
 - **562a – 569c**: Tyranny
- Wednesday, June 2, Session 1: **Book 9**: (pages 241 through 250)
 - **571a – 580b**: Tyranny continued
- Wednesday, June 2, **Zoom Presentation & Wine**: Matthew Post
- Thursday, June 3: Overview, Presentations, and Lunch.

Week 5: 25 pages

- Monday, June 7: **Book 9**: (pages 259 through 263)
 - **588b – 592b**: It is better to be just than unjust, conclusion.
- Tuesday, June 8, Session 1: **Book 10**: (pages 265 through 273)
 - **595a – 602c**: Expulsion of the poets
- Tuesday, June 8, Session 2: **Book 10**: (pages 285 through 292)
 - **614a – 621d**: The myth of Er
- Wednesday, June 9, Session 1: Percy Blythe Shelley, “A Defence of Poetry” (selections)
- Wednesday, June 9, **Zoom Presentation & Wine**: TBD
- Thursday, June 10: Wrap-up.

Total pages: ~165