

Subject Information List

University: Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA)	
Faculty: Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA)	
Subject code	Subject name: Eros Today in Plato's Symposium
Type, scope, and method of educational activities: Two weekly 90 minute meetings, in person, including seminar and lecture.	
Number of credits: 6 ECT	
Suggested semester: Spring Semester	
Level of studies: Bachelor's Degree students	
Conditional previous subjects: no prerequisite	
<p>Requirements for the course: Active participation based upon class readings is mandatory and accounts for thirty percent of the overall grade. There will be three writing exercises, all of which will account for ten percent of the overall grade. Throughout the semester, students will complete one group presentation focused on a topic/theme in one of speeches in Plato's Symposium. The group presentation accounts for twenty percent of the overall grade. At the end of the semester, each student will write an essay on a chosen topic related to mandatory readings and class discussions. The final essay will account for the twenty percent of the overall grade. The grading scale is as follows: A – excellent: 100-93%; B – very good: 92-84%; C – good: 83-74%; D – satisfactory: 73-63%; E – sufficient: 62-51%; Fx – fail: 50-0%. Passing a course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 lessons.</p>	
<p>Learning outcomes: The aim of this course is to understand the relevance of Plato for modern times and to critically reflect on philosophical topics and specialized texts related to Plato's <i>Symposium</i>. Students are expected to present a consistent and comprehensive view of the Ancient Greek notions of Eros and to compare and contrast Platonic and modern notions of Eros. Interpretations and relevant commentaries by Strauss, Heidegger, Nietzsche, and Marcuse, but also of scholars such as Rosen, Vlastos, and Nehamas are to be engaged with sufficiently for participating in in-class discussions. Along with attaining a comprehensive understanding of the various speeches in <i>The Symposium</i>, and particularly the ideas of Socrates/Diotima, students are expected to gain familiarity with the Platonic notions of virtue, beauty and the good, and to subsequently critically reflect on these notions in the context of contemporary society.</p>	
<p>Brief outline of the course: Introduction to Plato & Apollodorus, Aristodemus, Pausanias I, Pausanias II, Eryximachus I, Eryximachus II, Aristophanes I, Aristophanes II, Agathon I, Agathon II, Agathon in dialogue with Socrates, Socrates/Diotima I, Socrates/Diotima II, Socrates/Diotima III, Socrates/Diotima IV, Socrates/Diotima V, Alcibiades, Alcibiades II, The Symposium (analysis), Nietzsche & Heidegger, Secondary Literature I, Secondary Literature II & Marcuse.</p>	
<p>Recommended readings:</p> <p>Brentlinger, John A. "The Nature of Love," in <i>The Symposium of Plato</i>, translated by Suzy Q Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1970.</p> <p>Cornford, F. M. "The Doctrine of Eros in Plato's Symposium" Cambridge University Press, 1950.</p>	

Destrée, Pierre and Zina Giannopoulou. *Plato's Symposium: A Critical Guide*. Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Heidegger, Martin. "The End of Philosophy and The Task of Thinking." *Basic Writings: Ten Key Essays plus the Introduction to Being and Time*, HarperCollins Publishers, 1993.

Marcuse, Herbert. *Eros and Civilization: a philosophical inquiry into Freud*, The Beacon Press, 1966.

Nehamas, Alexander. "Only in the Contemplation of Beauty is Human Life Worth Living" Plato, Symposium 211d", *European Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 15, no.1, 2007, p. 1-18.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Anti-Christ, Ecce Homo, Twilight of the Idols*, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Nygren, Anders. *Eros and Agape*. New York: Harper and Row, 1969.

Plato Symposium, translated by Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff, *Hackett Publishing Company*, 1989.

Rosen, Stanley. *Plato's Symposium*. Yale University Press, 1987.

Strauss, Leo. *On Plato's Symposium*. The University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Vlastos, Gregory. *Platonic Studies*. Princeton University Press, 1973.

Language of the course: English

Notes:

Evaluation

Total number of evaluated students:

A	B	C	D	E	FX
(percentage of students who got A)	(percentage of students who got B)	(percentage of students who got C)	(percentage of students who got D)	(percentage of students who got E)	(percentage of students who got FX)

Instructor: S. D. Abrahám, MA.

Date of the last change: 26.2.2023

Approved: Prof. PhDr. František Novosád, CSc.