

GRW 3501. Plato

Credits: 3 Instructor
Konstantinos Kapparis, Professor of Classics Office: 135 Dauer Hall Email: kapparis@ufl.edu Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2, Thursdays 1-2. Emailing for an appointment, even during office hours, will ensure that there will be no waiting time.

Course Description: In this course we will read the *Apology* of Plato in the original Greek. The *Apology* is one of the key texts of the western canon, where Socrates explains his philosophy, his understanding of human knowledge, and his concepts of society and politics. Socrates was prosecuted by Anytos for impiety, because he allegedly wanted to abolish the traditional Greek religion and replace it with new deities, and for corrupting the minds of young men with his influence. The latter of the accusations was closer to the truth. Socrates was held responsible for corrupting the minds of some prominent Athenians who had caused much harm to the state and the people during the turbulent years of the Peloponnesian war and the Tyranny of the Thirty. Was he responsible for the way men like Critias and Alcibiades had turned up, and for their harmful actions against the Athenian people? While the prosecutors argue that Socrates was responsible, in the *Apology* Socrates defends himself and his legacy to the Athenian people, concluding that instead of facing the death penalty he should be treated as an honored guest of the state, for all his services to the state and its youth. Ultimately, Socrates was treated as a scapegoat for all the failings of the late 5th c. Athenian democracy and was convicted to death. In the *Apology* we follow step by step the trial, defense and conviction of Socrates in one of the most read and influential texts in history.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Follows the defense of Socrates and his trial for impiety, which resulted in his conviction and the death penalty.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, it is expected that students will:

1. Have a much better understanding of classical Greek, and be able to read Greek authors with greater ease and fluency
2. Have a better understanding of Greek Grammar and Syntax
3. Have enriched substantially their vocabulary of Greek
4. Have a much better understanding of the Athenian criminal justice system
5. Have a good grasp of Platonic philosophy and its main principles
6. Have developed greater appreciation of the iconic figure of Socrates and his teachings.
7. Have a better understanding of the debates on good citizenship, education and the functions of the individual within the framework of the Athenian Democracy.

List of required and optional texts

Required Reading

The *Apology* of Plato. Free access to the text from the edition of J. Burnet through Perseus:

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0169%3Atext%3DApol.>

Recommended Readings:

D.M. MacDowell. *The Law in Classical Athens*. London 1978

Paul Allen Miller, Charles Platter, *Plato's Apology of Socrates: A Commentary*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010. xiv, 225. ISBN 978080614025. \$26.95 (pb).

Leibowitz, D.M., 2010. *The ironic defense of Socrates: Plato's Apology*. Cambridge University Press.

Hathaway, R., 1970. Law and the Moral Paradox in Plato's *Apology*. *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 8(2), pp.127-142. URL BELOW:

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/229374/pdf>

Grading:

- Two In-class Examinations, as noted in the Syllabus. Each exam is worth 40% of your final grade (= 80% total).
- Class Attendance and Participation = 20% total

Students are required to read the assigned texts BEFORE each week's lecture.

Grading scale:

A = 90 or above

A- = 87-89

B+ = 84-86

C = 70-73

B = 80-83

C- = 67-69

D+ = 64-66

D = 60-63

B- = 77-79

D- = 57-59

C+ = 74-76

E = 56 or below

Weekly topics and assignments:

There is no set weekly schedule. We will continue reading through the text at a pace that is comfortable for everyone. Important events include:

Week 1 : Course administration and introductory information.

Week 8 (Oct. 7 and 9): Review and Midterm Exam

Week 15: (Dec. 2 and 4): Review and Final Test

Required Policies

1. Class Attendance

Class attendance is expected. Students are allowed five discretionary absences (see “Attendance” under “Graded Work” above) to cover excused and unexcused absences. Additional absences that meet the standard of “excused” per UF’s policies may be allowed, otherwise each absence beyond five will result in two points off of the final grade.

2. Making Up Work

Work is due as specified in the syllabus. Late work is subject to a 1/3 grade penalty for each 24 hour period it is late (e.g., a paper that would’ve earn an A if turned in in class on Monday becomes an A- if received Tuesday, a B+ if received Wednesday, etc, with the weekend counting as two days). To be

excused from submitting work or taking an exam at the assigned time, you must give 24 hours advance notice and/or meet the UF standards for an excused absence.

3. Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Electronic devices should be turned off and placed in closed bags. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be kept to a minimum.

4. Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

5. Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

6. UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways: [1] The email they receive from GatorEvals; [2] Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals; or [3] The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>. Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

7. University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

8. Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.