

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

OLIVE UP 2017-18

FALL TERM

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

TUTOR: DÓRA KIS-JAKAB

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to introduce the student to philosophy, with a special focus on Plato's *The Republic*. Throughout the first part of the course we read Plato's texts with a focus on Plato's notions on ethics, political philosophy and epistemology. In the second part we discuss other classic texts of philosophy, with a focus on political philosophy and contract theories. During the course the student will read philosophical texts, participate in in-class discussion, and write papers.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semesters the student will be familiar with the main idea and concepts that Plato explored in *The Republic* and learn about the conceptual and historical context of the work. The student will also be familiar with some of the important texts and key concepts of philosophy. They will have a basic grasp on typical problems raised by specific branches of philosophy and on the methods and approaches of philosophers. The student will be able to think in theoretical and analytical terms on various topics of philosophy. They are expected to learn how to read, analyze and criticize philosophical texts.

### GRADING

The final grade will consist of the followings: class participation (30%); 2 response papers, one of which can be substituted by student presentation (20%); mid-term paper (20%); final paper (30%).

#### Class participation (30%)

Readings, attendance and participation are mandatory and account for 30% of the grade. Readings for this course are available online on the courses' e-learning page.

#### Written assignments (70%)

- 2 response papers (10% each). The first response paper must be on topics covered between Week 1- Week 6 and is due by the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, the second response paper on topics covered between Week 6-Week 10, due by 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017.

Each response paper should be 500-700 words in length. Response papers must outline the main arguments and key concepts of the discussed text and present the student's critical reaction to the text's arguments and concepts.

- The second response paper can be substituted by student presentation on the student's topic of interest, if the topic is not included in the syllabus. The student presentations will take place on Week 11. If students wish to take this option, they must let the tutor know by the end of Week 8.
- Mid-term paper of 1,500 words, due by 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. (20%)
- Final paper of 3,000 words, due by 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. (30%)

## CONSULTATIONS

By the end of the semester, students must have a minimum of 5 consultations with the tutor. To arrange a consultation, please contact the tutor in person or via e-mail.

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

### WEEK 1:

Bertrand Russell (1912). *The Problems of Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 89-94.

Bertrand Russell (1961). *An Outline of Philosophy*. Cleveland: World Pub. Co. Chapt. 1

Plato: *The Republic*. Book 1.

### WEEK 2:

Daniel C. Dennett (2013). *Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking*. London: Penguin Books. (selections)

Joel Feinberg (2014). *Doing Philosophy*. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. 77-83.

Plato: *The Republic*. Book 2 (357a-362c; 366b-376c)

### WEEK 3:

Class 1: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 6 (504d-508e)

Class 2: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 7 (514a-519e)

#### WEEK 4:

Class 1: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 2 (376c-385c), Book 3 (386a-392c; 403c-404e; 410c-412b)

Class 2: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 5 (451c-471b)

#### WEEK 5:

Class 1: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 5 (473c-480), Book 6 (484a-498e)

Class 2: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 6 (494a-504e; 509a-511e)

#### WEEK 6:

Class 1: Plato: *The Republic*. Book 8 (543a-569c)

Class 2: Summary of the Republic

#### WEEK 7:

Class 1: Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*. Book II (Chapter 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9)

Class 2: Aristotle: *Politics* (selections)

#### WEEK 8:

Class 1-2: St. Augustine. *On the Free Choice of the Will* (1-7, 76-81)

#### WEEK 9:

Class 1 -2: Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan* (selections)

#### WEEK 10:

Class 1-2: John Locke. *Two Treatises of Government*. Second Treatise (selections)

#### WEEK 11:

Class 1-2: Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *Discourses on the Origins of Inequality* (selections)

#### WEEK 12: RESEARCH/WRITING (FINAL PAPERS)