

PHGA 7010 Plotinus The Platonist

Spring 2005

Professor Dana Miller

Description:

This course will examine a number of Plotinus' treatises following, more or less, the chronological sequence provided by Porphyry. The texts selected will be examined in as much detail as time permits and will be supplemented the reading of other, usually later, treatises on the same subject. Particular attention will be paid to Plotinus' innovative use of the Platonic tradition.

Texts:

The A.H. Armstrong translation of the *Enneads*, published in 7 vols. in the Loeb Series (Harvard University Press 1966-1988) is preferred. The price, however, of this translation (about \$135 for all the volumes) is discouraging. Xeroxes, when essential, will be handed out. Otherwise, the MacKenna translation (\$65!), or translations into other languages (e.g. German, French, Latin) may be used. Copies of the MacKenna translation can be found in the Bookstore. Penguin Books has published an abridged version, but this lacks some of the texts and many bits of texts that will be read.

Requirements:

20-25 pp. paper

Some recommended further reading:

D O'Meara, *Plotinus: an Introduction to the Enneads*. Oxford 1995.

—anything else by O'Meara

Ed. L. Gerson, *The Cambridge Companion to Plotinus*. Camb.1996.E. Emilsson, *Plotinus on Sense-perception*. Cambridge 1998.H.J. Blumenthal, *Plotinus' Psychology*. The Hague 1971.R.T. Wallis, *Neo-platonism*. New York 1972.

Collected Articles by A.H Armstrong,

(1) *Plotinian and Christian Studies*. London 1979.(2) *Hellenic and Christian Studies*. London 1990.J. Bussanich, *The One and its Relation to Intellect in Plotinus*. Leiden 1988. (A commentary on various passages that deal with this problem)

Recommended with some hesitation:

L. Gerson, *Plotinus*. London 1994.

In the back of O'Meara and Gerson there are good bibliographies listing many articles about many things. See also the listing in ANRW 36.1 529-623

Other:

J. Dillon, *The Middle Platonists*. Cornell 1977 (1996).H. Tarrant, *Thrasylan Platonism*. Cornell 1993. (a grain of salt is needed)H. Dörrie, *Platonica Minora*. Munich 1976. (Your German must be good and its not always worth the effort)