PHIL 5001
Introduction to Plato
Collins Hall, Conference Room

Instructor: Brian Johnson
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Office Phone Number: 212-636-6394
Office: Lowenstein Building (LL), Room 921f at the Lincoln Center
Office Hours: Since my regular office and hours are at the LC, it is best to make an appointment.
    I will typically be in the “guest office” in Collins hall for at least an hour or two before class begins. I am also happy to meet after class.

Text:
The Complete Works, published by Hackett Press and edited by John Cooper

Course Requirements:
- Reading Assignments
- A short paper (5 pages)
- A long paper (10 pages)
- Regular attendance

Course Plan and Assigned Readings:

Class 1: Introductory lecture on Plato, Socrates, and the problems inherited from the pre-Socratics

Class 2: Euthyphro and the Apology: the Elenchus and its malcontents

Class 3: Crito: The law and civil disobedience
        Protagoras: Hedonism and intellectualism

Class 4: A detour on Pythagoreanism; read the hand-out of fragments

Class 5: Meno: True Beliefs, Recollection and the Hypothetical Method

Class 6: Phaedo: Immortality and the Forms

Class 7: Phaedo: Immortality (cont.) and the Hypothetical Method
Class 8: 
*Phaedrus*: Rhetoric and the tri-partite soul 
**The short paper (5 pages) is due**

Class 9: 
*Symposium*: Knowledge and *eros*

Class 10: 
*Republic* Books 12: Set up of the problem about justice

Class 11: 
*Republic* Books 3-4: Civic and individual virtues 

Class 12: 
*Republic* Books 5-6 (stop at 502b): Philosophy and ruling

Class 13: 
*Republic* Books 6 (start at 502c) - Book 7: Philosphic knowledge and the Forms

Class 14: 
*Republic* Books 8-9: Systems of government and happiness

Class 15: 
*Republic* Book 10: Imitation in Poetry and the Myth of Er

**At the end of the semester, the long paper (10 pages) is due by e-mail**
Optional Reading:

General
Andrew S. Mason, *Plato* (Acumen, 2010) ← an excellent read
Steven Everson (ed.), *Companions to Ancient Thought*, vols. 1-4

Aside from the above books, you should also feel free to read the entries on the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. A number of its entries are quite good:
http://plato.stanford.edu/

Commentaries

Papers on Specific Subjects
Early Socratic Dialogues

Gorgias
**Meno**


**Phaedo**


**Republic**