Instructor: Brian Johnson
E-Mail address: brjohnson@fordham.edu [best way to reach me]
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
Meno: True Beliefs, Recollection and the Hypothetical Method

Class 5
A detour on Pythagoreanism; read the hand-out of fragments

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: Philosophic 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

Long paper (10 pages) is due
Optional Reading:

General
Andrew S. Mason, Plato (Acumen, 2010) ← an excellent read
T.H. Irwin, Plato’s Ethics (Oxford 1995)
Gregory Vlastos, Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher (Cornell 1991)
G. Fine, On Ideas (Oxford 1993)
I. M. Crombie, An Examination of Plato’s Doctrines (London 1962)
Ch. Kahn, Plato and the Socratic Dialogue (Cambridge 1996)
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
D. Gallop. Plato: Phaedo (Chapil Hill 1965)
E. R. Dodds, Gorgias (Oxford 1959)
Cross & Woozley, Plato’s Republic: a Philosophical Commentary (Macmillan 1966)

Papers on Specific Subjects
Early Socratic Dialogues
P.T. Geach. “Plato’s Euthyphro.” In Logic Matters (Berkeley 1980)

Gorgias
Meno


Phaedo


Republic