

# HUMA 11500 - 1

## Philosophical Perspectives

Autumn 2020

TR 9:40–11:00

Course Instructor: Malte Willer  
Email: [willer@uchicago.edu](mailto:willer@uchicago.edu)  
Office hours: R 12:30–2:30 [Zoom]

Writing Instructor: Alex Montag  
Email: [montag@uchicago.edu](mailto:montag@uchicago.edu)  
Office hours: T 11:30–1:30 [Zoom]

### BOOKS

The following texts are required for the course, available for purchase at the Seminary Coop Bookstore (5751 S. Woodlawn Avenue):

- Plato, *Five Dialogues*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, translated by Grube (Hackett), ISBN: 9780872206335
- Sophocles, *Theban Plays*, translated by Meineck and Woodruff (Hackett), ISBN: 9780872205857
- Plato, *The Republic*, translated by Griffith (Cambridge), ISBN: 9780521484435
- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by Ross (Oxford), ISBN: 9780199213610

There are numerous translations in print of each of the texts we will discuss. Make sure you use the translations found in the (fairly inexpensive) books listed above.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are three components of the work required of you:

- come to class prepared and participate through thoughtful comments and questions
- attend all writing seminars
- complete all writing assignments and response papers (see below)

### GRADES

There will be three writing assignments (4-6 pages) on selected topics; please email them to both instructors by 5 pm on the day they due:

First paper	due October 20 <sup>rd</sup>	worth 20%
Second paper	due November 10 <sup>th</sup>	worth 25%
Third paper	due December 8 <sup>th</sup>	worth 30%

The remaining 25% will be determined by your class participation (15%) and two response papers (5% each).

On some days, a group of students will introduce the class to the assigned reading and help facilitate class discussion; each student is expected to participate in one such group activity.

Late papers will be docked a grade per day (e.g., B+ to B) unless you have received approval ahead of time.

Response papers will consist of short discussions (2–3 pages) of an assigned reading, to be submitted the day before the reading is discussed by 5pm by email. The choice of reading is up to you, but at least one of them must be done by October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the second by November 19<sup>th</sup>. These discussions should express your personal reflections upon the reading for that session. They are meant to express your thoughtful reactions to the readings before they are discussed in class.

## FORMAT

The plan is to meet in person on Thursdays (except in Week 1 and in Week 10), with the exact location to be announced. All other meetings will be synchronous over Zoom. The default expectation for Zoom meetings is that you should be actively engaged, with camera on. If you require an exception, reach out to me and let me know. The meeting format for Thursdays may change as the quarter proceeds.

## UCHICAGO HEALTH PACT

All students on campus are required to adhere to the guidelines in the UChicago Health Pact in order to promote a safe environment in the classroom.

- Secure face coverings must be worn appropriately at all times while in University buildings
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from others
- Do not attend an in-person class if you feel unwell or are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms

The complete text of the UChicago Health Pact along with additional information about COVID-19 protocols can be found [here](#).

## REPORTING COVID-19 RELATED CONCERNS

Any concerns over inappropriate PPE usage, physical distancing, cleaning/disinfection, or other COVID-19 related public health concerns should be directed to [UCAIR](#).

## REPORTING COVID-19 EXPOSURE OR A CONFIRMED CASE

If you were potentially exposed to COVID-19 or your COVID-19 test results come back positive, reach out immediately to [C19HealthReport@uchicago.edu](mailto:C19HealthReport@uchicago.edu).

## RECORDING AND DELETION POLICIES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-1

The Recording and Deletion Policies for the current academic year can be found in the Student Manual under [Petitions, Audio & Video Recording on Campus](#).

- Do not record, share, or disseminate any course sessions, videos, transcripts, audio, or chats.
- Do not share links for the course to those not currently enrolled.
- Any Zoom cloud recordings will be automatically deleted 90 days after the completion of the recording.

## ATTENDANCE

Students who have been exposed to or who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately contact [UChicago Wellness](#) to be tested, and reach out to their area Dean of Students to request accommodations for classes until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and;
- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery — defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

## ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Chicago is committed to ensuring equitable access to our academic programs and services. Students with disabilities who have been approved for the use of academic accommodations by [Student Disability Services \(SDS\)](#) and need a reasonable accommodation(s) to participate fully in this course should follow the procedures established by SDS for using accommodations. Timely notifications are required in order to ensure that your accommodations can be implemented. Please meet with me to discuss your access needs in this class after you have completed the SDS procedures for requesting accommodations.

Phone: (773) 702-6000

Email: [disabilities@uchicago.edu](mailto:disabilities@uchicago.edu)

## ROADMAP

The following schedule provides an overview over the assigned readings. Readings may be slightly adjusted as the quarter goes on. Updated versions of this syllabus will be posted on Canvas as changes are made.

<b>Week 1</b>	September 29 October 1	Introduction Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>
<b>Week 2</b>	October 6 October 8	Plato, <i>Apology</i> Plato, <i>Crito</i> King, <i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i>
<b>Week 3</b>	October 13 October 15	Sophocles, <i>Oedypus Tyrannos</i> Sophocles, <i>Oedypus at Colonus</i>
<b>Week 4</b>	October 20 October 22	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book I, Book II (up to 367e) Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book II (368a to end), Book III, Book IV
<b>Week 5</b>	October 27  October 29	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book V (up to 471e) Annas, <i>Plato's "Republic" and Feminism</i> Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book V (472a to end), Book VI (up to 503b)
<b>Week 6</b>	November 3 November 5	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book VI (503b to end), Book VII Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book VIII, Book IX
<b>Week 7</b>	November 10 November 12	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II, Book III.6–12
<b>Week 8</b>	November 17 November 19	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book V Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VII.1–10
<b>Week 9</b>	November 24 November 26	Study Week — No Class Study Week — No Class
<b>Week 10</b>	December 1 December 3	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VIII, Book IX Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book X