

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH - DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 4400/6311 — TRADITIONAL TEXTS: ARISTOTLE

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Fall 2013

A seminar course primarily on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, but with one seminar on Book Λ (12) of the *Metaphysics*. Requirements are two exegetical seminars or essays, depending on enrolment. Seminars can simply be essays read aloud, and essays will be backups for seminars in case the scheduled presenter is absent. They should give an exposition and interpretation of the assigned section, in the form of a commentary, referring to the Bekker numbers so we can coordinate your seminar with the text, and making reference to the secondary scholarship on reserve (25 pages works well as a seminar length; going through the text and interpretations gets you there pretty quickly). If you're enrolled in **4400** use at least **two** of the commentaries on reserve **in addition to the translator's notes**. Those enrolled in **6311** should consult at least **three** of the commentaries in addition to the translator's notes. **Before you look at the commentaries** read the text carefully and work out your own interpretation so you can bring an independent point of view to your reading. **Essays are due at the beginning of the corresponding seminar** because it's part of your assignment to participate in the class discussion, and to be available to give a back-up seminar, and because the extra time would give you an unfair advantage. If you miss the deadline you'd have to choose a later topic; if there are no later topics the late penalty, to be meaningful, would be 5 marks per weekday. Regular attendance is important in seminar courses to ensure an adequate audience and to create continuity of discussion. Students who don't attend regularly will be assigned a final exam. Texts: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, second edition, translated by T. Irwin (Hackett ISBN 0-87220-464-2); Aristotle, *Metaphysics* Book Λ (12) (CourseLink).

Also see College of Arts Standard Statements (undergraduate or graduate) on CourseLink.

			Seminar	Essay
1	September	10	Introduction	
2		17	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Book 1	
3		24	Book 2 see Taylor 2006	
4	October	1	Book 3 see Taylor 2006	
5		8	Book 4 see Taylor 2006	
6		15	Book 5	
7		22	Book 6 see Reeve 2013	
8		29	Book 7	
9	November	5	Book 8	
10		12	Book 9	
11		19	<i>Metaphysics</i> Book Λ (12)	
12		26	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Book 10 see Ackrill (CourseLink)	

BOOKS ON 2-HOUR RESERVE OR AVAILABLE ONLINE

NICOMACHEAN ETHICS

MONOGRAPHS:

- Aquinas, Thomas: *Commentary on the Nicomachean Ethics* [B430.T53, 2 Vols.]
- Broadie, Sarah: *Ethics With Aristotle* (1991) [B491.E7 B7]
- Kraut, Richard: *Aristotle on the Human Good* (1989). [B 430.K73]
- Reeve, C. D. C. *Aristotle on practical wisdom: Nicomachean ethics VI* (2013). B430.A5 R44 2013
- Reeve, C. D. C. *Practices of reason: Aristotle's Nicomachean ethics* (1992). B430 .R46
- Taylor, C. C. W. *Nicomachean Ethics. Books II-IV* (2006). B430.A5 T29 2006

COLLECTIONS:

- Barnes, J., M. Schofield, & R. Sorabji (eds.): *Articles on Aristotle Vol.2* (1976) [B 485.A74]
- Miller, J. (ed.): *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics: A Critical Guide* (2011). B430.A928 2011eb – [Available Online](#)
- O'Meara, D.J. (ed.): *Studies in Aristotle* vol. 9 (1981) [B 21.S78 V.9]
- Rorty, A.O. (ed.): *Essays on Aristotle's Ethics* (1980) [B 430.A5 R57]
- See especially chapter 2: J.L. Ackrill, "Aristotle on Eudaimonia" – [Available on CourseLink](#)

METAPHYSICS

- Aquinas, Thomas: *Commentary on the Metaphysics of Aristotle*, 2 vols. [B434.T53]
- Owens, J.: *The Doctrine of Being in the Aristotelian Metaphysics* [B434 085 1963] – [Available Online](#)
- Politis, V. *Routledge philosophy guidebook to Aristotle & the Metaphysics* (2004) B434 – [Available Online](#)
- Ross, W.D.: *Aristotle's Metaphysics*, 2 vols. (notes on the text) [PA3893.M5 1953]