

HUMS 3500 — WINTER 2021
ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

PLATO'S *THEAETETUS*

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TOPIC

This seminar is about Plato's *Theaetetus*. The topic of this dialogue is knowledge. Three definitions are proposed: that knowledge is sense-perception, or true judgement, or true judgement with account. All three definitions are rejected and the dialogue ends without success in finding out what knowledge it. Underlying the three definitions is the metaphysical position of the Presocratic Materialists — Empedocles, Heraclitus, Anaxagoras, and others — and then employment of their metaphysics for rhetorical purposes by sophists such as Protagoras, who plays a major role in the dialogue *in absentia*. The negative result, consequently, is refutation of this school of Presocratic philosophy, on the grounds that their metaphysics makes knowledge impossible. And it is a repudiation of the relativism of Protagoras and his fellows, as following from demonstrably false assumptions.

FORMAT

The format of the class is a close reading of the texts, with an emphasis on discussion and analysis. We will also look at a selection of scholarly interpretations of *Theaetetus* and its place in the Platonic corpus.

ZOOM

We will meet on Zoom on Mondays from 11:35 to 2:25 (<https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/92228648781>) (Password: HUMS3500).

REQUIRED TEXT

- Plato. *Complete Works*. Ed. John M. Cooper. Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett, 1997.

You must use this edition. It is the same edition that is required for HUMS 2000. If you want an electronic copy of the dialogue (in English or Greek), email me for a copy.

Note that if you try to use a free translation available online, it will likely be the Jowett translation. This will make your life very hard.

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

- **Omnioutliner Essentials 5** (<https://store.omnigroup.com/edu/f9120b1a58d1d6e1ffffff>) — \$19.99 US. For Mac only. There are also versions for iPad and iPhone.

- This is a very useful outlining tool. Unfortunately, it is Mac or iPad only. The outline function in MS Word is a decent alternative, and PC users can access it.
- **Scrivener** (<https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php>) — Mac or Windows Education license is available.
- This is an extremely useful tool for writing long, complex documents.

GRADES

Grades for the course will be based on the following.

Attendance	10%
Question Assignments	30%
Meeting with me to discuss format and topic of Final Take-Home Examination	0%
Preliminary Essay Plan for Take-Home	0%
Finished Essay Plan for Take-Home	0%
Final Take-Home Examination	60%
Total	100%

Grades for assignments will be given as a percentage out of 100. At the end of the course you will be assigned a letter grade corresponding to your final percentage, according to the standard Carleton scale:

Standard Carleton Grade Scale				
0-49 = F	50-53 = D-	60-63 = C-	70-73 = B-	80-84 = A-
	54-56 = D	64-66 = C	74-76 = B	85-89 = A
	57-59 = D+	67-69 = C+	77-79 = B+	90-100 = A+

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for this course are the following:

1. Attendance

- I will take attendance each day. Only absences explained by a doctor's note or other evidence of incapacity will be 'forgiven', by being removed from the total out of which your attendance is calculated. In any case, **you must attend four (4)** or more sessions, or you will **fail the course automatically**.

2. Questions Assignments on the dialogues assigned for each day

- For every day (except the first day of class), you must submit a single question on that day's reading, with your attempt to give an answer to the question. Your answer should be very brief, and should never be more than half a page, single spaced.

- What I want to see is that you have read the material and thought about its argument. Questions that show more insight into what is going on to that point in the dialogue will receive better grades. Questions that are answered insightfully will receive better grades. Because you will be doing this while working through the dialogue, your own clarity of thought is more important than giving the exact, accurate answer that Plato eventually gives to your question.
 - Questions and answers are to be uploaded to cuLearn by the beginning of the class in which the reading will be discussed. Late questions without a medical or comparable excuse will not be accepted, and you will receive a 0% for that portion of your Questions grade.
- 3. A meeting with me to discuss the topic and format of your final Take-Home examination**
- You must schedule a meeting with me for a time that I am free during the three weeks beginning on February 8th and ending on February 26th. This meeting will not be graded, but is a prerequisite for submitting your Preliminary Essay Plan. In it we will discuss what topic and format you would like to choose for your final Take Home examination.
- 4. A Preliminary Essay Plan for your Take-Home**
- This must issue from your meeting with me about a good topic and format for your final Take-Home examination. I will not accept your Preliminary Essay Plan unless you meet with me first. If you try to hand one in without a meeting, you will simply accrue late penalties until you meet with me and hand one in that is actually based on our meeting.
 - Your Preliminary Essay Plan will not be graded, but is a prerequisite for submitting your Finished Essay Plan.
- 5. A Finished Essay Plan for your Take-Home**
- This is an expanded version of your approved preliminary plan. As before, your finished plan will not be accepted until a preliminary plan is submitted and approved.
 - Your Finished Essay Plan will not be graded, but is a prerequisite for submitting your Final Take-Home Examination.
- 6. A final Take-Home Examination**
- The topic and format of this assignment must be based on your approved Essay Plan. As before, your Take-Home will not be accepted until an Essay Plan is submitted and approved.
 - The required length of your final take-home exam is between 10 and 15 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman. The exam is due at midnight on the final day of the April examination period, April 27th.

If, at any stage in this process, you want to change your mind about the topic and format of your final Take-Home examination, you may schedule a new meeting with me to discuss your proposed new topic/format. *If I approve such a change of direction on the basis of this meeting*, you must then submit and have approved a new Preliminary Essay Plan, and a new final Essay

Plan, where applicable. But you are strongly advised to nail down what you want to do, with certainty, early on.

ATTENDANCE

The Bachelor of Humanities official policy on participation and attendance is the following: *Attendance and participation are critical components of all courses in the Bachelor of Humanities program. As a result, a pattern of non-attendance may in and of itself constitute sufficient grounds for awarding a final course grade of F.*

You must attend class regularly. You must be present for at least four (4) of the sessions, or you will fail the course automatically, no matter how well you do on the assignments. See the section below on Automatic Failure.

Note that even if you are absent from class, your outline of the material is still due at the beginning of that class. See below the section on ‘extensions’ for reductions of late penalties due to illness.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION

- You must submit your Question Assignments before the start of class on the day that the material is discussed.
- You must submit all your assignments electronically to cuLearn.
- Question Assignments and Essay Plans may be in MS Word format (.doc or .docx), PDF, or Omnioutliner format.
- Final Take-Home Examinations **MUST** be in MS Word format (.doc or .docx).
- Your date and time of submission will be when the file is uploaded.
- If you upload your assignment in the wrong format or hand in a paper copy instead of submitting it electronically, I will not consider your assignment to have been submitted. Late penalties will accrue until the document is submitted correctly.
- Do not upload your document a second time in order to fix a minor issue, as the second submission date and time will replace your original one. Documents with minor corrections should be emailed as an attachment, to gregory.macisaac@carleton.ca

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Question Assignments uploaded after the beginning of class on the due date are late, and will not be accepted (see ‘Extensions’ section for exceptions), and you will receive a 0% for that Question Assignment. Note that, if you miss the deadline, you do not subsequently have to complete that Question Assignment in order to pass the course.

Final Take Home Examinations uploaded after midnight on the 27th of April are late, and will have their grade reduced by 3% per calendar day.

For example, an examination that would have received a 78% (B+) would suffer the following penalties:

- 1 day late (from the beginning of class to midnight the following calendar day) = 75% (B)
- 2 days = 72% (B-)
- 3 days = 69% (C+)
- 4 days = 66% (C)

- 7 days = 57% (D+)
- 10 days = 48% (F)

Note that my grades are due on the 7th of May. If you have not submitted your examination by 9AM on the 7th of May, you will receive an F for the course. If you submit it subsequently, *with a documented reason for lateness that would adjust its submission date to before midnight on the 7th of May*, I will accept it, adjusting the late penalty accordingly, and then submit a change of grade form.

If you are granted an official deferral of your final Take-Home Examination by the Registrar's office, it will be due on the deferred date that they specify (see below under Deferral of Final Take-Home), and late penalties will begin accruing at midnight on that date.

'EXTENSIONS'

An extension is a private due-date for your assignment that differs from the due date every other student must meet. No extensions will be granted in this course.

However, a late assignment accompanied by a medical certificate or other documentation providing evidence of a physical or psychological condition that rendered you unable to do schoolwork will be accepted. If it is a Question Assignment, and it would have been submitted on time had you been able, it will be graded as normal. If it is the final Take Home Examination, your late penalty will be reduced by the number of days of proven incapacity.

For this COVID year a self-assessment form (<https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>) may be substituted for a doctor's note.

Please note that a heavy workload does not constitute a legitimate reason for lateness. Late penalties are an incentive to manage your time effectively, but they are also a consequence of failing to do so.

DEFERRAL OF TERM WORK

In very exceptional circumstances you may obtain a deferral of term work from your instructor. These will only be granted in cases where serious injury, illness, or other involuntary factors have rendered you unable to work for a prolonged period of time, and where a reasonable chance of completing your term work still exists.

In this class, deferrals of term work apply only to the Question Assignments.

You must request a deferral of term work from your instructor no later than three days after the deadline for the assignment you were unable to complete has passed, and an accommodation must be agreed upon, if granted, before the last day of classes.

If you do not hand in your deferred term work by the deadline for submission of grades, 9AM on the 7th of May, that work will receive a 0%. If subsequently you hand in your deferred work, and it is accepted, your grade will then be adjusted.

Note that deferrals of term work are granted at the discretion of your instructor, and are not granted by the Registrar's Office.

DEFERRAL OF FINAL TAKE-HOME

In very exceptional circumstances you may obtain a deferral of your final Take Home Examination. These must be granted by the Registrar, and are not at the discretion of your instructor. Regulations for official deferrals and the Deferral Application Form may be found on the [Registrar's Office Site](#).

PREREQUISITES FOR YOUR FINAL TAKE-HOME

You must complete the prerequisites for your Final Take-Home Examination in order to pass this course. These consist of your Meeting with me to plan your final assignment, and your two Essay Plans.

- Note that you cannot complete all of these prerequisites together in a lump. You must (1) have a meeting with me *before* you can (2) submit your Preliminary Essay Plan. The Preliminary plan must be approved *before* you can (3) submit your Finished Essay Plan, and this must be approved *before* you can submit your final Take Home Examination.
- In order to avoid late penalties, you must complete these prerequisites in time for you to submit your Final Take-Home Examination by its due date of midnight on the 27th of April.
- You must complete these prerequisites in time for you to submit your Final Take-Home Examination by the absolute deadline of 9AM on the 7th of May, 2019, or you will receive a grade of F, unless granted a deferral of course work (see Deferrals, above) or unless you have a documented reason for lateness that would adjust the submission date(s) to before 9AM on the 7th of May (see Late Assignments, above).
- Note that the final date to withdraw from the course is the 14th of April. If you do not think you will be able to finish your Take-Home before the 7th of May, and you have no extenuating circumstances, you are strongly advised to withdraw from the course.
- In exceptional circumstances you can petition the Registrar's office for a back-dated medical withdrawal from all of your courses in a given year.

AUTOMATIC FAILURE

You will fail the course automatically, with a grade of 'F', if you:

- **Do not meet with me to discuss your final assignment.**
- **Do not hand in your Preliminary Essay Plan**
- **Do not hand in your Final Essay Plan**
- **Do not hand in your Take Home Examination**
- **Attend fewer than 4 of the class session**

GETTING HELP

I am always willing to give you whatever help I can. I am willing to help you understand and plan your assignments, give you constructive feedback, help you come up with a strategy to get your work done more efficiently, or refer you to the service on campus that can help with any serious problems that crop up.

But in order for me to help you, you must ask for my help.

- If your assignment is late, don't ignore it. You will end up failing the class. Come see me. Let me know that you are having problems. I will let you know what your options are, no matter how serious your circumstances may be.
- Visit me in my office hours, which I hold every week, whether you need to discuss a problem, an assignment, or simply would like to chat about this course or another course. I can help you much more effectively one-on-one than I can in class, and that is what office hours are for.
- Discuss your assignments with your classmates. They are also where you are right now, and they can help you figure out whatever you find difficult.
- No one is good at everything right away. But most people make dramatic improvement with the help of others who already know the path to follow.

TOPICS AND READINGS

	Date	Discussion Topics and Assignment due-dates	Questions due
1	Mon, Jan 11	• Introduction: Interpretations of <i>Theaetetus</i> and its place in the Platonic corpus	
2	Mon, Jan 18	• The Frame; Preliminaries to the Argument (142a-151d)	Y
3	Mon, Jan 25	• Sense-Perception: Protagorean Relativism and Heraclitean Flux (151d-154b)	Y
4	Mon, Feb 1	• Sense-Perception: Sensory Relativism (Narrow Protagoreanism) (154b-160d)	Y
5	Mon, Feb 8	• Sense-Perception: Relativism of Opinions (Broad Protagoreanism) (160d-172b) • Begin meetings with me about your final Take-Home. You have until the 26th of February to meet with me.	Y
	Mon, Feb 15	Reading Week: no classes	
6	Mon, Feb 22	• Sense-Perception: Final Refutation of Sensation (172c-183c)	Y
7	Mon, Mar 1	• Transition from Sense-Perception to Judgement (183c-186e)	Y
8	Mon, Mar 8	• True Judgment: The Binary Character of knowledge (187a-191c) • Preliminary Essay Plans for the Take-Home due	Y
9	Mon, Mar 15	• True Judgment: The Wax Block (191c-196c)	Y
10	Mon, Mar 22	• True Judgment: The Aviary (196d-201c)	Y
11	Mon, Mar 29	• True Judgment with an Account: The Dream Theory (201c-206b)	Y
12	Mon, Apr 5	• True Judgment with an Account: The Three senses of Account (206c-210d)	Y
13	Mon, Apr 12	• Conclusion • Finished Essay Plans for the Take-Home due	
	Tue, Apr 27	• Midnight — Final Take-Home due	
	Fri, May 7	• 9AM — Final day to submit a late Take-Home, to avoid an F in the course	



Humanities

University Regulations for All College of the Humanities Courses

Academic Dates and Deadlines

This schedule contains the dates prescribed by the University Senate for academic activities. Dates relating to fee payment, cancellation of course selections, late charges, and other fees or charges will be published in the Important Dates and Deadlines section of the Registration Website.

Online Learning Resources

While online courses offer flexibility and convenience, they also present unique challenges that traditional face-to-face courses do not. [On this page](#), you will find resources collected by Carleton Online to help you succeed in your online courses; Learning Strategies and Best Practices, Study Skills, Technology and Online Interaction and Engagement.

Copies of Written Work Submitted

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

Academic Integrity at Carleton

The University Senate defines **plagiarism** as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without

prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs." Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)
[Academic Integrity Process](#)

Academic Accommodation Policy

Academic Accommodation

Carleton University is committed to providing access to the educational experience in order to promote academic accessibility for all individuals.

Parental Leave: The Student Parental Leave Policy is intended to recognize the need for leave at the time of a pregnancy, birth or adoption and to permit a pause in studies in order to provide full-time care in the first year of parenting a child or for health-related parental responsibilities.

Religious obligation: Carleton University accommodates students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Academic accommodation of students with disabilities is available through the [Paul Menton Centre](#) by evaluations that are carried out on an individual basis, in accordance with human rights legislation and University policy, and with the support of relevant, professional/medical documentation.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

Individuals who disclose that they have experienced sexual violence will be provided support services and will be treated with dignity and respect at all times by the University and its representatives. A person affected by sexual violence is not required to report an incident of or make a complaint about sexual violence under the formal complaint process of the Sexual Violence Policy in order to obtain support and services, or in order to receive appropriate accommodation for their needs.

[Supports and services available at the University to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support.](#)

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. [More information.](#)

Grading System at Carleton University

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

The [system of grades](#) used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion, is listed below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value.

Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

[More information](#)

Student Rights and Responsibilities at Carleton

Carleton University strives to provide a safe environment conducive to personal and intellectual growth, free of injustice and characterized by understanding respect, peace, trust, and fairness.

The [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#) governs the non-academic behaviour of students. Carleton University is committed to building a campus that promotes personal growth through the establishment and promotion of transparent and fair academic and non-academic responsibilities.

[7 Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Deferred Term Work

In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

1. Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due. The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. In all cases, formative evaluations providing feedback to the student should be replaced with formative evaluations. In the event the altered due date must extend beyond the last day of classes in the term, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for the work not submitted and submit the student's earned grade accordingly; the instructor may submit a change of grade at a later date. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.
2. In cases where a student is not able to complete term work due to illness or injury for a significant period of time/or long term, the instructor and/or student may elect to consult with the Registrar's Office (undergraduate courses) or Graduate Registrar (graduate courses) to determine appropriate action.

[More information of deferred Term Work](#)

Deferred Final Exams

Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made.

The application for a deferral must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than three working days after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination.

[More information on Final Exam Deferrals
Registrar's Office "Defer an Exam" page](#)

Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#). Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. You can do this via the [MyCarleton Portal](#). A fee adjustment is dependent on registration being canceled within the published [fee deadlines](#) and dependent on your course load.

Department Contact Information

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CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca

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