

HUMS 4901 — WINTER 2018  
RESEARCH SEMINAR: ANTIQUITY TO THE MIDDLE AGES  
PLATO'S DIALOGUES ON SOPHISTRY

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### TOPIC

This seminar is about Plato's dialogues on sophistry. We will begin with an examination of good and bad in speech-making, in *Phaedrus*, and then look at five case-studies of sophistry, in *Euthydemus*, *Protagoras*, *Gorgias*, *Hippias Major*, and *Hippias Minor*. We will end with a brief look at Plato's analysis of sophistry in *Sophist*.

Our topic is Plato's understanding of the sophist's technique of verbal falsification, as well as his indictment of the moral vice that underlies it and the metaphysical and epistemological errors that sanction it.

### FORMAT

The format of the class is a close reading of the texts, with an emphasis on discussion and analysis.

### PREREQUISITES

If you are a B.Hum student, previous work in philosophy beyond HUMS 2000 would be an asset, but is not required. If you are not a B.Hum student, at least 4th year standing and a B-average are required. Previous work in ancient philosophy is not required, but it is recommended.

### REQUIRED TEXT

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

You must use this edition. Mark at All Books probably has a few lying around, if you don't already have a copy. Or you can order it from Amazon. Anyone who wants the Greek texts should 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>) — \$5.99 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>) — \$53.45 for Mac Education license, \$48.91 for PC Education license.
- This is an extremely useful tool for writing long, complex documents.

## GRADES

Grades for the course will be based on the following.

Attendance	5%
Reading Outlines of the section for each day	20%
(Meeting with me about Essay Plan. Not graded, but required for course.)	0%
Preliminary Essay Plan for Take-Home	5%
Finished Essay Plan for Take-Home	10%
Take-Home Examination	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 or more sessions, or you will fail the course automatically.

### 2. Reading Outlines of the sections of dialogues assigned for each day

- You must make an outline of the argument of the reading for each day. These Reading Outlines need not be very detailed. What I want to see is that you have read the material, thought about its major divisions, and thought about the argument's movement from one

division to another. Reading Outlines are to be uploaded to cuLearn by the beginning of the class in which the text will be discussed. Late outlines without a medical or comparable excuse will not be accepted, and you will receive a 0% for that portion of your Reading Outlines grade.

- Note that your first outline will be on *Euthydemus*, which is the topic of the second class, and your last one will be on *Hippias Minor*. You will not have to make an outline of the section of *Sophist* for the final day of class.

**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 5th and ending on February 23rd. This meeting will not be graded, but is a necessary requirement for 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.
- You are invited, but not required, to present your preliminary plan to the class in the Essay Plan Workshop.

**5. A Finished Essay Plan for your Take-Home**

- This is an expanded version of your approved preliminary plan. As before, your final plan will not be accepted until a preliminary plan is submitted and approved.
- You are invited, but not required, to present your finished essay plan to the class in one of the two Essay Workshops at the end of the class.

**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.

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. In such a case, if your original meeting/plans were submitted on time, revisions will not accrue late penalties. But you are strongly advised to nail down what you want to do, with certainty, early on.

**ESSAY PLAN WORKSHOP AND ESSAY WORKSHOP**

One day will be spent on an Essay Plan workshop, and two days will be spent on Essay Workshops. You are not required to present your work to the class, but I strongly encourage you

to do so. These workshops are an opportunity for you to get feedback from each other on how your final project is coming along.

The in-class format time-limits be ruthlessly enforced — if everyone presents it will be about 5 minutes presentation and 5 minutes total feedback. However, you can then post your work on cuLearn so that your classmates, who heard your presentation, can give you written comments. You are all smart. You are all used to helping each other. Do so.

## **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 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 Reading Outlines before the start of class on the day that the material is discussed.
- You must submit all your assignments electronically to cuLearn.
- Reading Outlines 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](mailto:gregory.macisaac@carleton.ca)

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Reading Outlines 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 outline assignment. Note that, if you miss the deadline, you do not subsequently have to complete that outline.

Preliminary Essay Plans and Finished Essay Plans uploaded after the beginning of class on the due date are late, and will have their grade reduced by 3% per calendar day (i.e. including weekends). According to the standard Carleton scale, given above, this means that in most cases you will lose one letter grade per day that your assignment is late.

For example, an assignment 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)
- And so on, until the assignment reaches 0% (F)

Late assignments will very quickly sink to a grade of F. Hand in your assignments on time.

Final Take Home Examinations uploaded after midnight on the 26th of April are late, and will have their grade reduced by 3% per calendar day, just like the Essay Plans. However, note that my grades are due on the 7th of May. If you have not submitted your examination by midnight on the 6th 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 6th of May* (see ‘Extensions’ section, below), I will accept it, adjusting the late penalty accordingly, and then submit a change of grade form.

#### **‘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 Reading Outline, and it would have been submitted on time had you been able, it will be graded as normal. If it is an Essay Plan or the final Take Home Examination, your late penalty will be reduced by the number of days of proven incapacity.

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.

#### **DEFERRALS**

In very exceptional circumstances you may obtain a deferral of course work from your instructors. 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 course work still exists.

In this class, deferrals of course work apply to the Reading Outlines, Essay Plans, and to the final Take Home Examination.

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

If you do not hand in your deferred course work by the deadline for submission of grades, it will receive a 0%. If the deferred work is one of your Essay Plans or your final Take Home Examination, you will receive an F in the course for incomplete term work. If subsequently you hand in your deferred work, and it is accepted, your grade will then be adjusted.

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

### COMPLETION OF TERM WORK

Term Work that must be completed in this course consists of your Meeting with me to plan your final assignment, your two Essay Plans and your Final Take Home Examination.

- Note that you cannot submit all of your Term Work together in a lump. You must have a meeting with me before you can submit your Preliminary Essay Plan. The Preliminary plan must be approved before you can submit your Finished Essay Plan, and this must be approved before you can submit your final Take Home Examination.
- You must have all of your Term Work completed by the absolute deadline of midnight on the 6th of May, 2018, 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 midnight on the 6th of May (see Late Assignments, above).
- Note that the final date to withdraw from the course is the 11th of April. If you do not think you will be able to finish the term work on time, 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

To pass, students must attend the class regularly and complete all of the Term Work.

**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	Outline due?
1	Thu, Jan 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction</li> <li>• Overview of Dialogues</li> <li>• <i>Phaedrus</i> 259e-279c</li> <li>• <i>Cratylus</i> 383a-386e</li> <li>• <i>Theaetetus</i> 151e-152e and 160b-168c</li> </ul>	N
2	Thu, Jan 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Euthydemus</i></li> <li>• Discussion of format of final Take-Home exam</li> </ul>	Y
3	Thu, Jan 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protagoras</i> 309a-328d (Protagoras on sophistry and virtue)</li> </ul>	Y
4	Thu, Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Protagoras</i> 328d-362a (Socrates against Protagoras' idea of virtue)</li> </ul>	Y
5	Thu, Feb 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gorgias</i> 447a-461b (Gorgias section)</li> <li>• <b>Begin meetings with me about your final Take-Home. You have until the end of Reading Week to meet with me.</b></li> </ul>	Y
6	Thu, Feb 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gorgias</i> 461b-481b (Polus section)</li> </ul>	Y
	Feb 19-23	<i>Reading Week: no classes</i>	
7	Thu, Mar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay Plan Workshop</li> </ul>	N
8	Thu, Mar 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gorgias</i> 481b-527e (Callicles section)</li> <li>• <b>Preliminary Essay Plans for the Take-Home due on cuLearn</b></li> </ul>	Y
9	Thu, Mar 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hippias Major</i></li> </ul>	Y
10	Thu, Mar 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hippias Minor</i></li> </ul>	Y
11	Thu, Mar 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay Workshop part one</li> <li>• <i>Sophist</i> 216a-243b</li> </ul>	N
12	Thu, Apr 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay Workshop part two</li> <li>• Conclusion</li> <li>• <b>Finished Essay Plans for the Take-Home due on cuLearn</b></li> </ul>	N
	Thu, Apr 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Take-Home Examination Due</b></li> </ul>	





## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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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

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found on <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/#AIatCU>.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## Grading System at Carleton University

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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. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System Chart](#)

## Course Sharing Websites and Copyright

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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).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and

preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

## Deferred Term Work

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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.

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. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Exams

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Students who do not write/attend a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply to write a deferred examination.

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. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

The granting of a deferral also requires that the student has performed satisfactorily in the course according to the evaluation scheme established in the Course Outline, excluding the final examination for which deferral privileges are requested. Reasons for denial of a deferral may include, among other conditions, a failure to (i) achieve a minimum score in the course before the final examination; (ii) attend a minimum number of classes; (iii) successfully complete a specific task (e.g. term paper, critical report, group project, computer or other assignment); (iv) complete laboratory work; (v) successfully complete one or more midterms; or (vi) meet other reasonable conditions of successful performance.

More information can be found [in the calendar](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to: [Registrar's Office](#)

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA.

**NEW FALL 2017:** WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term. Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

**Dates can be found here:** <http://calendar.carleton.ca/academicyear/>

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)