Course Description:

This course will proceed through a close reading of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, the foundational work for his political philosophy and in many ways for all subsequent political thought. Themes will include human nature; the relation of virtue to happiness; the character of moral education; courage and the other moral virtues; reciprocal, distributive, and corrective justice; natural right; moral and criminal responsibility; practical wisdom or prudence; friendship; and the relative merits of the political and philosophic lives.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

5 bi-weekly 1-2 page papers (maximum 500 words) on a passage not yet discussed in class, 5% each. Due at the beginning of class on Monday, August 30 and any four of the following Mondays: Sept. 13 and 27, Oct. 11 and 25, and Nov. 8.

5 bi-weekly question sets (maximum 200 words), elucidating a few of the most important problems in a section of the text not yet discussed in class, 5% each. Question sets must be submitted by e-mail before 7 am on Wednesday, Sept. 8 and any four of the following five Mondays: Sept. 20, Oct. 4 and 18, and Nov. 1 and 15.

Greek option: students with one year or more of Greek may meet weekly and translate passages from the texts we are studying in lieu of half of the short assignments. For these students, one short paper will be due Aug. 30, a second paper either Sept. 13 or 27, and a third paper either Oct. 11 or Oct. 25. One question set will be due either Sept. 8 or 20 and a second question sets either Oct. 4 or 18.

No late short papers or question sets will be accepted.

Term paper of 10-15 pages on a topic of your choosing (35%), due in my office Friday, Dec. 10 at 5 pm.

Class Participation: 15%.

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259.
Recommended Texts

Primary:


All students who know any Greek at all are strongly urged to buy a Greek text and consult it continually as you read. Best is: Aristotelis, *Ethica Nicomachea*, ed. I. Bywater (Oxford).

Secondary:


