

PSC 409H The Problem of Socrates
Mon. and Wed. 2:30 - 3:45

Wright C327

Mark Lutz

office hours: Mon 1-2 and Wed 12-2 and by appointment.

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Course Description:

“The Problem of Socrates .Plato's Socrates, the various dimensions of his way of life.

Also

ancient and modern critiques of Socrates from Aristophanes' *Clouds* to Socrates' place in the philosophy of Nietzsche.... Prerequisite: PSC 200. 3 credits.”

Format: The course includes lectures and discussions about the reading. Students are expected to come to class having read the material and being ready to discuss it.

Learning Objectives: Students will improve their abilities to read, discuss, and write about some of the most important and challenging books in the Western tradition. They will also learn about the issues surrounding the attempt to make reason authoritative in political, moral, and divine matters.

Reading required for purchase from Bookstore:

Four Texts on Socrates. Edited by Grace and Thomas West. Chicago.

The Roots of Political Philosophy. Edited by Thomas Pangle. Cornell.

Twilight of the Idols. Nietzsche. Penguin.

Additional readings will be available through e-reserve

Requirements:

Mid-term 20%

Final 20%

Two 4 to 5 page papers (1000 to 1250 words), 20% each. Each paper is to be based on your own research. This is not a research paper based on secondary literature.

Two reading quizzes, 5% each

Participation. 10 %. Possession of the reading material and speaking in class. Mere attendance does not count as participation. More than 2 unexcused absences will reduce the course grade by a half a grade. Excessive absences may lead to further reductions.

Reading Schedule

Aug. 24	Introduction
Aug 26	Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i> 1-339
Aug 31	Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i> 340-517
Sept 2	Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i> 518-866 (Reading quiz)
Sept 7	Labor Day
Sept 9	Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i> 867-1213
Sept 14	Aristophanes <i>Clouds</i> 1214-1511
Sept 16	Plato <i>Minos</i> 313a-316c
Sept 21	Plato <i>Minos</i> 316c-321d
Sept 23	Plato <i>Alcibiades Major</i> 103a-09d (1 st Paper due on topic “What are the Clouds and how does their wisdom differ from that of Socrates?”)
Sept 28	Plato <i>Alcibiades Major</i> 109e-117b
Sept 30	Plato <i>Alcibiades Major</i> 117c-124b
Oct 5	Plato <i>Alcibiades Major</i> 124c-135e
Oct 7	Plato <i>Alcibiades Major</i> continued
Oct 12	Mid-term examination (Bring blank exam book and pen).
Oct 14	Plato <i>Laches</i> 178a-189c
Oct. 19	Plato <i>Laches</i> 189c-196c
Oct 21	Plato <i>Laches</i> 196c-201c
Oct 26	Plato <i>Laches</i> continued
Oct 28	Plato <i>Apology</i> 17a-23e
Nov 2	Plato <i>Apology</i> 23e-28b (Reading quiz)
Nov 4	Plato <i>Apology</i> 28b-35d
Nov 9	Plato <i>Apology</i> 35e-42a
Nov 11	Veteran’s Day. No class.
Nov 16	Plato <i>Phaedo</i> 96-102 (2 nd paper due, topic t.b.a.)
Nov 18	Nietzsche <i>Birth of Tragedy</i> (chapters 11-16) and <i>& Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> “Behold The Last Man.”
Nov 23	Nietzsche <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> Preface and Part One
Nov 25	Nietzsche <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> chapters 28, 190-91, 195, 198-202, 204, 208, 223, 228, 257-260, 295.
Nov 30	Nietzsche <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> . Pp. 31-51.
Dec 2	Nietzsche <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> . Pp. 90-108, 115-21.

UNLV Writing Center -- One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

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Rebel Mail. Students are required to check their Rebel Mail accounts for official communications from UNLV.

Classroom Conduct– Students must not disrupt the learning process. Inappropriate classroom activities include (but are not limited to) eating, talking to others, talking on a cell phone, texting, and using a laptop for something other than taking notes. Misconduct can result in being marked absent, a lowering of the course grade, and expulsion from the class.

Religious Holidays Policy -- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day at late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not be avoided.