

Course Description

Plato's *Republic* is the most important and most provocative philosophical work to come down to us from the ancient world and one of the three or four great masterpieces of western philosophy. The conversation in it ranges over almost every area of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of education, feminism, aesthetics, and philosophy of religion. In spite of its richness and complexity it is one of the most accessible works of ancient philosophy. It is thus an ideal text for study in an upper-division philosophy course. We will read one book of the dialogue each week, and for background we will also read Homer's *Iliad*. There will be a written exercise for *every* session.