

SYLLABUS FOR POL 507 / CLA 507 / PHI 507 / HLS 507

Plato's Statesman

Graduate Seminar: half-course, second half of semester, Spring 2015

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Associated Faculty in Classics and in Philosophy

Meetings on Weds 9:00 AM – 11:50 AM
25 March – 29 April 2015 inclusive
Meetings in 301 Marx Hall

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Course rationale

Work on Plato's *Statesman* has enjoyed a second mini-renaissance in recent years. The first mini-renaissance came in the 1990s, with works including Christopher Rowe's valuable translation and edition of the dialogue (1995), Stanley Rosen's *Plato's Statesman: The Web of Politics* (1995), and Melissa Lane's *Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman* (1998). Recent publications and theses have reassessed fundamental issues including the dialogue's methodological inventiveness (Sylvain Delcomminette, *L'inventivité dialectique dans le Politique de Platon*, 2000), the closeness of the relationship between its method and politics (Dimitri El Murr, *Savoir et Gouverner: Essai Sur La Science Politique Platonicienne*, 2014), and its assessment of the nature of law in non-ideal regimes (Federico Zuolo, *Platone e l'efficacia. Realizzabilità della teoria normativa*, 2009).

Nevertheless, the dialogue remains relatively neglected and understudied in political theory and in classical philosophy alike. This course will enable graduate students to grapple with its deep significance for a number of crucial topics in political philosophy, including: the nature of politics as a science, art or craft; its relationship to other arts and sciences that contribute to society and political life; the relationship between knowledge and law; the relationship between ideal theory and non-ideal regimes. We will proceed via a close reading of the dialogue in sequence (with Greek texts to hand and used by those with the ability, but Greek not required to participate) and selected secondary readings. At the end of the course, on **18-19 May 2015**, Princeton will host a two day international workshop on the dialogue, featuring a number of the younger British and European researchers on the dialogue mentioned above, and offering participating graduate students the opportunity both to engage with the outside speakers on the basis of an intensive preparation, and to present their own seminar papers ideas to this expert audience, receiving feedback that would help to shape their own research achievements. It is hoped that this pairing of a graduate seminar with a research workshop in which the graduate students, having been prepared by the seminar, can contribute and also present their work in progress, may constitute a model for future use.

Course requirements for Politics students (students in other departments should discuss with me)

You have a choice between (a) and (b) - both adjusted below for the fact that this is a half-seminar – or, for those who took POL 736 or POL 738, you may write a single full-length research paper to count for the grade in both that course and this one. **Each student must present at the workshop on 18-19 May, for 20% of grade.**

a) a research paper

For this course: equivalent to a short article, of approximately 4000-4500 words. Research papers should engage issues related to a theme of the reading course: please make an appointment to talk to me about the topic that you have in mind, with a page of outline and bibliography, no later than 8 May, and plan to present a short account at the international workshop on the *Statesman* at Princeton on 18-19 May. This paper will count for 80% of grade; to accommodate the workshop presentation, due 28 May at 11:59 PM.

b) several short critical papers

For this course: two papers of approximately 2,000 words each, equally weighted to count for 40% of grade each. Short papers should identify and explore a focused question arising in readings and/or discussion. Short paper 1 due: 24 April at 11:59 PM. Short paper 2 is due 28 May - 11:59 PM.

REQUIRED BOOKS

--- **Text:** some combination of the below, hard copies ordered via Labyrinth:

Rowe, C.J. (ed. and trans.) Plato. *Statesman*. Aris & Phillips 1995 [there is also a 2nd (corrected) edition but this was not available from Labyrinth]

Rowe, C.J. (trans.) Plato. *Statesman*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1999. This is a corrected version of the 1995 translation; the corrected version first appeared in, and so can alternatively be consulted in:

Cooper, J.M. (ed.) Plato. *Complete Works*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997.

Explanation: the above 1995 Rowe edition has facing Greek and extensive notes, so it is in many ways the most useful text to use. But the translation was corrected in the 1997 Cooper (ed.) *Plato. Complete Works* (Hackett), and that same corrected translation is also available in a paperback of the *Statesman* alone (Hackett, 1999, trans. Rowe). So if you use the 1995 edition, you should also have available for comparison that corrected translation, either in the separate paperback or in the Cooper edition.

If you are completely Greekless, you may choose to forego the more expensive 1995 edition, but if you have any Greek at all, I suggest using that as the primary text and simply having the Hackett paperback to consult as well.

So, in sum, your choices are:

Use 1995 Rowe – supplemented by either 1997 Cooper Complete Works, or by 1999 Hackett paperback of *Statesman* alone

OR use 1997 Cooper or 1999 Hackett paperback of *Statesman* – but knowing that you won't have the Greek or full notes

If you have Greek, having the new OCT (ed. Robinson et al) is most useful as the reference text, though the older OCT edited by Burnet is also useful (and is the primary basis for Rowe's edition though he diverges from it occasionally).

-- **Lane, M. S. *Method and Politics in Plato's Statesman***. Cambridge Classical Studies. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. (Hard copies ordered via Labyrinth; also available online with Princeton access: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511518492>)

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1.	The Early Divisions: Featherless Bipeds	(St. 257a-268c)
Week 2.	The Myth: Politics under Kronos and Zeus	(St. 268d-276e)
Week 3.	Methods: <i>Paradeigma</i> and Measurement	(St. 277a-291c)
Week 4.	The Role of Law and Non-Ideal Cities	(St. 291d-303c)
Week 5.	The Final Divisions: Defining Statecraft	(St. 303d-311c)
Week 6.	The <i>Statesman's</i> place in Plato's political thought [secondary reading only]	

REQUIRED READINGWeek 1. The Early Divisions: Featherless Bipeds (St. 257a-268c)

Plato, *Sophist* 216a-217, 253a-3; *Phaedrus* 265d-266c [from Cooper edn of complete Plato or another source]

Lane, MPPS, pp. 1-46

Gill, Mary Louise, "Division and Definition in Plato's *Sophist* and *Statesman*," in David Charles (ed.) *Definition in Greek Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010, pp.172-199: available as e-book: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199564453.001.0001>

Week 2. The Myth: Politics under Kronos and Zeus (St. 268d-276e)

Lane, MPPS, 99-125

Carone, Gabriela, *Plato's Cosmology and Its Ethical Dimensions*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, ch.6, pp.124-45: available as e-book through Princeton catalog at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511734915> (see notes and bibliography as well as chapter).

[Carone provides a good summary and defense of the three-stage Brisson reading of the myth which is available in his words only in French, for example in Brisson, "Interprétation du mythe du *Politique*," in Rowe (ed.) RS, pp.349-363. Rowe also defends a version of the interpretation in the notes to his 1995 edn.]

Vidal-Naquet, Pierre, "Plato's Myth of the *Statesman*, the Ambiguities of the Golden Age and of History," *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 98 (1978) 132-141.

Optional:

Gill, Christopher, "Plato and Politics : the *Critias* and the *Politicus*," *Phronesis* 24 (1979) 148-167.

Nightingale, Andrea W., "Plato on the Origins of Evil : The *Statesman* Myth Reconsidered," *Ancient Philosophy* 16 (1996) 65-91.

Week 3. Methods: *Paradeigma* and Measurement (St. 277a-291c)

Lane, MPPS, 46-97 and 125-36

Gill, Mary Louise, "Models in Plato's *Sophist* and *Statesman*." *PLATO Le Journal Internet de La Société Platonicienne Internationale* 6, no. March (2006): <http://gramata.univ-paris1.fr/Plato/article27.html>

Sayre, Kenneth, *Metaphysics and Method in Plato's Statesman*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, ch. 4, pp.73-91: available as e-book through Princeton catalog at:

Electronic access: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511584596>

Optional - useful diagrams:

Plato. *Plato Statesman: Translation, Introduction, Glossary, and Essay*. Edited by Eva T. H. Brann, Peter Kalkavage, and Eric Salem. Focus Philosophical Library. Newburyport, MA: Focus Pub, 2012: Appendix A: The Art of Weaving (p.153 only) and Appendix B: The Divisions of Plato's *Statesman*: pp.155-63.

Optional:

Blondell, Ruby, "From Fleece to Fabric : Weaving Culture in Plato's *Statesman*," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 28 (2005) 23-75.

Week 4. The Role of Law and Non-Ideal Cities (St. 291d-303c)

Lane, MPPS, 137-63

Rowe, C.J., "The Statesman and the Best City," in Havlíček, Aleš, Jakub Jirsa, and Karel Thein, eds. *Plato's Statesman: Proceedings of the Eighth Symposium Platonicum Pragense*. Praha: OIKOYMENH, 2013, 40-50.

Rowe, C.J., "Killing Socrates : Plato's Later Thoughts on Democracy," *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 121 (2001) 63-76.

Samaras, Thanassis, *Plato on Democracy*, New York: Peter Lang, 2002, chapters 8-10, pp.137-198. [Chapter 8: 'The Ideal Statesman in a Non-Ideal Political Environment', 137-54; Chapter 9: 'The Myth of the *Politicus*, 155-70; Chapter 10: 'The Historical Perspective', 171-98.]

Week 5. The Final Divisions: Defining Statecraft (St. 303d-311c)

Lane, MPPS, 163-202

Lane, Melissa, "Political Expertise and Political Office in Plato's *Statesman*: the statesman's rule (*archein*) and the subordinate magistracies (*archai*)," in Havlíček, Aleš, Jakub Jirsa, and Karel Thein, eds. *Plato's Statesman: Proceedings of the Eighth Symposium Platonicum Pragense*. Praha: OIKOYMENH, 2013, 51-79.

Week 6. The Statesman's place in Plato's political thought [secondary reading only]

Schofield, Malcolm, *Plato*, Chapter 4: The Rule of Knowledge (pp.136-193)

Cooper, J. M., 'Plato's *Statesman* and Politics', in J. Cleary and G.M. Gurtler (eds.), *Proceedings of the Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy*, vol. XIII, 1997, pp. 71-104 ; rpt. in his *Reason and Emotion . Essays on Ancient Moral Psychology and Ethical Theory*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1999, pp. 165-191.

Optional / special interest – the statesman and the philosopher:

Lane, Melissa, "["Emplois pour philosophes": l'art politique et l'Etranger dans le Politique à la lumière de Socrate et du philosophe dans le Théétète](#)", translated into French by Fulcran Teisserenc, *Les Études philosophiques*, 2005 (no.3: September) 325-45. Click here for English version "["Jobs for Philosophers": statecraft and the Stranger in the Statesman in light of Socrates and the philosopher in the Theaetetus](#)" (but only to be cited in French)

Gill, Mary Louise. "Plato's Statesman and Missing Philosopher." In *Plato's Statesman: Proceedings of the Eighth Symposium Platonicum Pragense*, edited by Aleš Havlíček, Jakub Jirsa, and Karel Thein, 27–39. Praha: OIKOYMENH, 2013. [See also her book: Gill, Mary Louise. *Philosophos: Plato's Missing Dialogue*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012 – e-book available through Princeton catalog: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199606184.001.0001 - esp. ch.6>, pp.177-200.]

McCabe, Mary Margaret. "Chaos and Control: Reading Plato's *Politicus*," *Phronesis* 41 (1997): 94–117.

Optional: Rowe, Christopher, "The *Politicus*: Structure and Form," in C. Gill and M.M. McCabe (eds.), *Form and Argument in Late Plato*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1996, pp. 153-178.

REFERENCE

Text

Robinson et al Oxford Classical Text: this is a successor to the Burnet, but is controversial at points, and the Burnet is still worth consulting. For information on the Robinson et al 'new' OCT, see:

Nicoll, W.S.M. "The Manuscript Tradition of Plato's *Statesman*." In Rowe (ed.), RS [see below for abbreviation], 31–36.

Robinson, D. "The New *Oxford Text* of Plato's *Statesman*: Editor's Comments." In Rowe (ed.), RS, 37–46.

Editions

Campbell, L. (ed.). *The Sophistes and Politicus of Plato*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1867. This is the classic edition akin to Adam for the *Republic*.

Skemp, J. B., ed. *Plato's Statesman: A Translation of the Politicus of Plato with Introductory Essays and Footnotes*. 2nd ed. Bristol: Bristol Classical Press, 1987. This has notes not included in the Ostwald revised edition of Skemp's translation.

Other important editions – see also fuller list in bibliography in El Murr, Dimitri. *Savoir et Gouverner: Essai Sur La Science Politique Platonicienne*. Tradition de La Pensée Classique. Paris: Vrin, 2014.

Stallbaum 1841 (German; not in Firestone).

Brisson, Luc, and Jean-François Pradeau, (ed.) *Le Politique*. Garnier Flammarion (Series) 1156. Paris: Flammarion, 2003.

Diès, Auguste (ed.) *Le Politique*. Garnier Flammarion (Series) 1156. Paris: Flammarion, 2003.

Giorgini, Giovanni (ed.) *Platone. Politico*. Milano: BUR, 2005.

Collections of articles on the Statesman:

Rowe, C.J. (ed.) *Reading the Statesman: Proceedings of the III Symposium Platonicum*, edited by C. J. Rowe [International Plato Studies, v. 4.], Sankt Augustin: Academia Verlag, 1995. [RS]

Havlíček, Aleš, Jakub Jirsa, and Karel Thein, eds. *Plato's Statesman: Proceedings of the Eighth Symposium Platonicum Pragense*. Praha: OIKOYMENH, 2013.

Relatively recent monographs on the Statesman include:

In English: Mitchell Miller, Stanley Rosen, Seth Benardete (included in larger study), Xavier Márquez.

In French: Sylvain Delcomminette, Dimitri El Murr. Also more idiosyncratic philosophical / political engagement in study of the dialogue by Cornelius Castoriadis (English trans. available).

In Italian: Maurizio Migliori.

General studies of development of Plato's political thought, or themes in it:

George Klosko (2nd edn).

Federico Zuolo, *Platone e l'efficacia. Realizzabilità della teoria normativa*, 2009.

Jean-François Pradeau, *Plat Pradeau, Jean-François. Platon et La Cité*. Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 1997. [There is an English translation but not in Firestone.]