Plato on Virtue and Knowledge

This is a seminar on Plato’s discussions of virtue and knowledge, and of the relation between them. The primary focus will be five dialogues: Protagoras, Meno, Euthydemus, Republic and Theaetetus, but there will be some digression into other Platonic dialogues, as well as into some of the works of Aristotle (notably Nicomachean Ethics VI and de anima 3). There will be some consideration of the methodology of the dialogues, in the context of Platonic arguments about the nature of value, the development of virtue, the relation between intellectual and moral virtue, the relation between knowledge and belief, and the role of perception in understanding.

MMM