Course Description

This course offers a broad survey of the philosophy of Aristotle of Stagira (384-322 BC). Beginning with an overview of his logic, scientific method, and cognitive science, we will proceed to examine the principles of his theoretical science, including physics, cosmology, biology, physiology, and psychology, as well as examples of his explanations of such phenomena as meteorological halos, memory, dreaming, and animal motion. We will also examine major issues of his practical science including his theories of moral and intellectual habituation and virtue, his definitions of political life and the classification of political regimes, his moral-psychological accounts of fear, anger, desire, pity, and shame, and his political-psychological conceptions of rhetoric, mass media, and fine art.

Required Texts


*Aristotle: Protrepticus*, edited and translated by D. S. Hutchinson and M. R. Johnson (Handout)

Objectives

- Learn to cite, interpret, and criticize the primary works of Aristotle in English translation both in discussion and in writing.
- Survey major topics and problems in the philosophy of Aristotle, including his logic, physics, and ethics.
- Devise and execute an original research project on Aristotle using both primary and secondary sources.
- Observe or participate in active professional research in the field of Aristotle Studies.
- Appreciate the seminal influence of Aristotle on the subsequent development of Western philosophy and science and learn to relate Aristotle to current or perennial problems in the field of philosophy.
Schedule of Readings and DEADLINES

January 5   Aristotle’s Life, Works, and Division of Philosophy

- *Basic Works*, pp. v-xxi (the introduction).
- Handouts: biographical timeline; how to cite the Aristotle Corpus; an overview of the Aristotle Corpus.

January 7   The Exhortation to Philosophy

- *Protrepticus* (introductory material and the whole dialogue).
- Due: Personal Information form

January 12  Metaphilosophy: The History of Experience, Art, Science, and Wisdom

- *Metaphysics* I.1-10

January 14  Logic: Propositions, and Contradictions

- *On Interpretation* 1-9 and *Sophistical Refutations* 1 and 34

January 19  Logic: Syllogisms, and Dialectical Reasoning

- *Prior Analytics* I.1 and 1.4 and *Topics* I.1 and *Rhetoric* I.1.
- Due: Hard Copy of Scholar Assignment!

January 21  Epistemology: Scientific Knowledge, Explanation, and Demonstrative Reasoning

- *Prior Analytics* I.30 and *Posterior Analytics* I.1-3 and II.11 and 14-19

January 26  Physics: Natural Science

- *Physics* I.1, II.1-2. *Meteorology* I.1, 338a20-339a10
- Due: Revision and Electronic Copy of Scholar Assignment

January 28  Physics: Causality, Luck, Spontaneity, Art, and Necessity

- *Physics* II.3-9
- Due: Research Proposal
February 2    Cosmology and Meteorology

•  *On the Heavens* I.1-12; II.13-14; *Meteorology* III.2-3.

February 4    Biology and Physiology

•  *Parts of Animals* I.1-5  
  •  Recommended: *HA* 1.1, *PA* 2.1, *GA* 1.1, 5.1

February 9    Vitalogy: Vegetation and Sensation

•  *On the Soul* I.1, II.1-12

February 11   Psychology: Imagination, Thinking, and Self-Motion

•  *On the Soul* III.1-13  
  •  Due: Research Essay Draft 1

February 16   Psychology: Memory and Dreaming

•  *On Memory and Recollection*, *On Dreams*, *On Prophesying by Dreams*

February 18   Ethics: *Eudaimonia* and Intellectual Virtue

•  *Nicomachean Ethics* I.1-13 and VI.1-13 and X.6-8  
  •  Due: Critique of Draft 1

February 23   Ethics: Moral Habituation, Character Formation, and Virtue

•  *Nicomachean Ethics* II.1-9 and III.6-12

February 25   Ethics: Moral Psychology, Emotions, and Rhetoric

•  *Nicomachean Ethics* IV.5 and 9, *Rhetoric* I.2 and II.1-6  
  •  Due: Research Essay Draft 2

Monte Ransome Johnson             www.montejohnson.info
March 1  Political Science: Justice, Politics, and Economics

- *Nicomachean Ethics* V; *Politics* I.1-13

March 3  Political Science: Classification of Constitutions

- *Nicomachean Ethics* X.9; *Politics* III.6-13, IV.1-13

March 8  Political Science: Mass Media and Fine Art

- *Poetics* 1-26

March 10  Part I of Student Research Conference

- Due: Research Essay Final Draft!
- Due: Research Handout and Presentation

March 15  Part II of Student Research Conference

- Note that class meets from 3-6pm and attendance is mandatory
- Due: Final Examination