



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - 2024-2025

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

Text Course I

Course Code	W_BA_TXT1
Credits	6
Period	P3
Course Level	200
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. M. Martijn
Examiner	prof. dr. M. Martijn
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. M. Martijn
Teaching method(s)	Lecture

Course Objective

The aim of the course is to teach students how to read a philosophical text and how to formulate their own questions after reading it.

After completing this course, you will be able to critically analyze ancient philosophical texts, by

- 1) critically reading philosophical texts (in translation),
- 2) analysing philosophical arguments,
- 3) formulating your own questions,
- 4) discussing with peers,
- 5) presenting your own response to the text and its arguments in writing.

Course Content

This course will focus on Plato's *Republic*. Plato's *Republic* is among the most influential philosophical texts in the history of Anglo-European philosophical traditions and beyond. This course invites students to familiarise themselves with the key topics with a focus on some of its seminal passages, as well as to analyse and to engage critically with their arguments. Active participation by the students is required.

Students who complete the course will acquire not only knowledge of the key philosophical themes discussed in the *Republic*, but also a general understanding of the main conceptual issues related to the text.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Introductory lectures; close reading seminars

Method of Assessment

The assessment for this course consists of small individual writing assignments and oral (individual or group) presentations for each class (pass/fail, assessing learning objectives 1–4) and a final paper

at the end of the course (determining the final grade, assessing learning objectives 1–3, 5). If a student fails more than 20% of the smaller assignments, an additional small assignment has to be made.

Literature

We will at least all use *Plato Republic, Translated from the New Standard Greek Text, with Introduction*, by C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publishing Company 2004. Additional other translations (e.g. in other languages) may be used, provided they use the Stephanus pagination.

Required secondary literature will be specified in the course description on Canvas.

Additional Information Target Audience

This course is primarily for philosophy students, but other interested students with a general knowledge of ancient philosophy are welcome to enrol.

Recommended background knowledge

General knowledge of the history of ancient philosophy (especially Greek) is recommended for this course. Those who have not attended a course on the history of Ancient Philosophy and/or are not familiar with its topics are required to acquaint themselves with some key texts in ancient philosophy, in addition to the primary and secondary literature for this course. Please contact the teacher for more information.