



## Plato Seminar: Philosophy and Death In the *Apology* and *Phaedo* Hilary (Winter) 2025

<b>Term Dates:</b>	January 13 – March 22, 2025
<b>Department:</b>	Philosophy
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Introductory
<b>Instructor:</b>	David Haines
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	Mondays 4:00pm – 6:00pm (Eastern Time)
<b>Zoom Link:</b>	<a href="#">Populi</a> > click My Courses tab > click course > click Conferences (left menu).

### Course Description

In this course, we will be deep-diving into two of Plato's most important dialogues: the *Apology* and the *Phaedo*. In the *Apology*, we find Socrates defending himself and his teachings before the jury of Athens. Accused of corrupting the youth by turning them away from the gods, Socrates faces the death penalty. In the *Phaedo*, Plato recounts a discussion that Socrates has with his closest friends, having lost his court case. In these two dialogues, Plato discusses key themes such as the nature of philosophy and the philosopher, the nature of the forms, the nature of the soul, life after death, and the nature of morality.

### Objectives

1. To accurately observe the categories and concepts of thought in Plato's dialogues.
2. To acquire a clear understanding of Plato's basic ideas, as articulated in the *Apology* and the *Phaedo*.
3. To evaluate fairly what is true and/or helpful from Plato's dialogues and what is not, and to allow ourselves to be influenced by the truth, and to put aside what is false.
4. To develop proper sentiments towards the value of what is being discussed and to apply wisely what has been understood.
5. To express clearly what has been observed, understood, evaluated, felt and applied.

### Course Format

Class sessions will involve a combination of lecture and seminar-style discussion on readings. Students are expected to read required texts before class and come ready for discussion.

## Course Delivery

### Classroom Resources

- [Populi](#) online classrooms are used for all course content, including assignments, grades, announcements, course records, and more.
- [Zoom](#) links & recordings are provided on the Populi course page Conferences tab. Class sessions are two hours weekly (2.5 in summer) for ten weeks (8 weeks in summer) and recorded for absent students (not for dissemination outside of class).
- [Discord](#) may be used for additional student and instructor interaction as well as Davenant community discussions.

**Attendance:** Required for all students taking courses for credit. If the scheduled time does not work for a particular student, they may drop the course according to the Drop Policy in the Academic Catalog.

**Auditors:** No requirements, but may participate in all class activities.

**Late work:** Grade reduction of -5% per calendar day upon instructor discretion. No assignments will be accepted after the last due date without an approved extension.

## Course Texts

A/ Aristotle: [On the Soul](#) and [Nicomachean Ethics](#).

B/ Plato: *Apology* and *Phaedo* (use one of the following editions):

- Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*, 2nd ed., Trans. G. M. A. Grube, rev. John M. Cooper (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co., 2002) **OR**
- John Cooper (ed.), *Plato: Complete Works* (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co., 1997). (ISBN: 0872203492) ([Amazon](#)). **OR**
- Plato, *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Phaedo*, trans. & ed. Chris Emlyn-Jones & William Preddy (Cambridge, MA/London, England: Harvard University Press, 2017).
- [Plato's Apology on Perseus](#).
- [Plato's Phaedo on Perseus](#).

C/Plato, selections from [Republic](#), [Phaedrus](#), and [Gorgias](#)

D/ Plotinus, [Ennead](#), 1.9, 4.1-2 and 4.7.

E/ Thomas Aquinas, [Summa Contra Gentiles](#), II. 55, III. 79-83.

F/ Thomas Aquinas, [Summa Theologiae I](#), q. 75.

## Requirements

### 1. Attendance/participation (20%)

Students are expected to read required texts beforehand and come with texts, notes, and questions in hand. Please include your first and last name when attending Zoom. **One unexcused absence is permitted.**

### 2. Weekly Reflection Papers (40%)

For each class (except week 1), students will submit a short paper with two headings: (1) **Explication** of 1–3 central themes (200–300 words) from the required reading for the week & (2) **Questions**, including 3 thoughtful questions for class discussion based on the texts. Explications are due on Saturday night each week.

### 3. Research Paper (40%)

- **Length:** 3,000 – 4,000 words (12 – 15pp).
- **Sources:** 2 primary sources & 8 academic secondary sources.
- **Instructions:** Write an argumentative research paper on one of the topics covered in class. Your paper must interact with at least 3 primary and 5 secondary sources, including counter-arguments.
- **Grading:** Papers should display academic style, clear and creative thesis, substantial source interaction, evidence in support of a cumulative argument (not overly descriptive), accurate understanding of important concepts and viewpoints, honest interaction with counter-arguments.
- **Formatting:** Times New Roman, double-spaced, 12-pt font, footnotes, Title page, Bibliography.

## Course Calendar

Subject to change. [Click here](#) for the most current syllabus.

Week	Dates	Topics
1	Jan 13	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction to Platonic dialogues and discussion on how to read them.</li> <li>● Overview of <i>Apology</i> and <i>Phaedo</i></li> </ul> Optional Resource ➤ <a href="#">Plato   Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</a>
<i>Apology</i> (20 pp)		
2	Jan 20	Charges and Refutation (10 pp) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opening Statement (17a–18a)</li> <li>● The Charges and Refutation of Old Accusations (18a–24b)</li> </ul>
3	Jan 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Refutation of Meletus' Charges (24b–28a)</li> </ul>
4	Feb 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Socrates' Defense of His Life and Mission (28a–35d) (6 pp)</li> </ul>
5	Feb 10	The Philosopher, the Truth, and Death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Socrates' Reaction to the Verdict (35e–39d) (3pp)</li> <li>● Closing Philosophical Reflection (39e-42a) (2pp)</li> </ul>
<i>Phaedo</i> (52 pp)		
6	Feb 24	Introduction to the dialogue (57a-61e) Reasons why Socrates does not fear death (61e-69e)  Optional Resources ➤ <a href="#">Plato: Phaedo   Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</a>
7	Mar 3	Immortality of the Soul: Defense ( <i>Phaedo</i> 69e-84b) (14 pp) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Argument from Platonic Reincarnation (70c-72e)</li> <li>2. The Argument from Recollection (72e-78b)</li> <li>3. The Affinity Argument (78b-84b)</li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Phaedrus</i> 245c-257b (10 pp)</li> </ul>
8	Mar 10	<p>Immortality of the Soul: Objections (<i>Phaedo</i> 85c-107b) (20 pp)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Objections from Simmias and Cebes (85c-88c)</li> <li>● Socrates' Response to Simmias and Cebes (89b-107b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoiding Misology (89b-91c)</li> <li>○ Response to Simmias (91e-95a)</li> <li>○ Response to Cebes (95a-107b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Socrates' Intellectual History &amp; the Second Voyage (96a-102a)</li> <li>■ The Final Argument (102b-107b)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9	Mar 17	<p>Other arguments on the Immortality of the Soul:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aristotle, <a href="#"><i>On the Soul</i></a>, bk. 3, ch. 3-5 (427a16-430a25) (6pp)</li> <li>● Aristotle, <a href="#"><i>Nicomachean Ethics</i></a>, bk. 10, ch. 7 (1177a13-1178a7) (2pp)</li> <li>● Plotinus, <a href="#"><i>Ennead</i></a> 1.1-2, 1.9, 4.1-2 and 4.7 (54 pp.)</li> <li>● Aquinas, <a href="#"><i>Summa Theologica</i> I.75</a> (15 pp)</li> <li>● Aquinas, <a href="#"><i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> II.55</a> (5 pp)</li> <li>● Aquinas, <a href="#"><i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> III.79-83</a> (≈ 15pp)</li> </ul>
10	Mar 24	<p>Myth, Catharsis, &amp; Moral Motivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Phaedo</i> 107c-115a (6 pp) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Socrates' Death (115a-118a) (2 pp)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Other texts worth considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Republic</i> Bk X (24 pp)</li> <li>● <i>Gorgias</i> 523-527 (5 pp)</li> </ul> <p>Concluding Discussion</p>
	April 5	Term paper due

# Institutional Policies

## Drop Policy

The policies below apply to changes made after the registration deadline two weeks prior to term. To change registration before the term starts, please log on to Populi. To change registration after the term starts, email the registrar at [registrar@davenantinstitute.org](mailto:registrar@davenantinstitute.org). See the Academic Calendar section for exact dates.

**Drop Date (100% Refund):** Before the term starts, students may drop with a 100% tuition refund. Registration fee is non-refundable.

**Drop Date (50% Refund):** Within the first two weeks of a term, students may drop the course with a 50% tuition refund. Registration fee is non-refundable. To drop, please email the registrar.

**Withdrawal:** Within weeks three and four of a term, students who drop a course will receive no refund and will earn a “W” on their transcript. Students cannot drop after this time will receive a letter grade. To drop, please email the registrar.

## Attendance & Class Meeting Time Scheduling

Attendance is required for all students taking courses for credit. Most classes are scheduled for evenings or weekends, especially core classes. If the scheduled time does not work for a particular student, they may drop the course according to the Drop policy.

## Extension Policy

All coursework and exams must be submitted no later than two weeks after the term end date. Before that time, homework extensions are at the discretion of the instructor. If a student requires more time, the student may submit a formal extension request by emailing the registrar at [registrar@davenantinstitute.org](mailto:registrar@davenantinstitute.org). If approved, an extension will be granted to the student for a specific period of time agreed upon by the student and instructor. Extension requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will generally be granted for medical and family emergencies only.

## Minimum Grade Requirement for Degree Students

Students enrolled in one of our degrees must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B average). If the students' GPA falls below 3.0, Davenant will initiate conversation with the student to judge whether the student is ready for their program. If the student earns a grade lower than a “C” (2.0) on a course required for their degree, they must retake the course in order to graduate. Their new grade will replace their former grade. If a degree student earns a grade lower than a “C” (2.0) on an elective, they are not required to retake the course, but they may request to retake the course or a close equivalent as a substitute for their former grade.

## Grading Scale

**Passing:** ≥93:A • ≥90:A- • ≥87:B+ • ≥83:B • ≥80:B- • ≥77:C • ≥73:C

**Retake if Core:** 70–72:C- • ≥67:D+ • ≥63:D • ≥60:D- • <60:F.

For a complete list of policies, see the Academic Catalog at [davenanthall.com](http://davenanthall.com)