PHL 466.01: Aristotle

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Philosophy 466: Aristotle

Professor Matthew Strohl
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Course description:
This course is a survey of several of Aristotle’s central works, focusing on topics in physics, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and ethics. Aristotle’s writings are dense and often very difficult, and so while the reading assignments for the course are short in terms of number of pages, you should spend as much time on them as you would on much longer assignments, and always read important segments more than once.

Required texts:
Note: You must use these translations (no exceptions!). I will make assigned secondary literature available by emailing .pdf files.

Grading and exams:
There will be a longer take home exam, a shorter one, and a 5-7 page paper in two or more drafts. The two exams will make up about half your grade, and the paper will be the other half. I will not be directly grading you on attendance and participation, but your attendance and participation will determine whether I round a grade up or down, give you a break, etc. You will have some flexibility about the paper topic but you MUST talk with me about what you’re going to write about well in advance of the final deadline on the syllabus, you MUST engage with some secondary literature that I will suggest for you, and you MUST write an outline BEFORE writing a rough draft. If you are having trouble coming up with a paper idea come talk with me and I will help you, but please don’t wait till the last minute.

Academic misconduct:
You are strictly held to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code. The in-class exams are closed-note: you may not consult anything but your own mind in order to answer questions on the exam. You may not use cell-phones, or any electronic devices to aid you, nor fellow students, nor fellow students' answers on exams, etc. You will receive no credit for any exam that you cheat on. Your conduct will also be reported to the Dean. YOU MAY NOT USE ONLINE SECONDARY SOURCES FOR TAKE HOME EXAMS.

Special needs:
Students with disabilities will receive reasonable modifications in this course. Your responsibilities are to
request them from me with sufficient advance notice, and to be prepared to provide verification of
disability and its impact from Disability Services. Please speak with me after class or during my office
hours to discuss the details. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at
www.umt.edu/dss/

**Readings:**

1/10 Intro
1/15 Categories 1-5, Prior Analytics I.1, 4
1/17 Posterior Analytics I.1-4, II.8, 19
1/22 Physics I
1/24 De Generatione et Corruptione I.1-4, II.1-4
1/29 Physics II
1/31 cont.
2/5 Physics III, IV, and V
2/7 cont.
2/12 De Anima I.1-3, II.1-4
2/14 De Anima II.5-12, Lorenz article
2/19 Metaphysics IV, **Take Home Exam due**
2/21 Cont., start Metaphysics VII (Warning: exceedingly difficult. You should skip the stuff about Plato
unless you’re interested in it. The most important part for our purposes will be 1-4. Read more if you
can but focus on those chapters.)
2/26 cont.
2/28 Meta XII
Nicomachean Ethics:
3/5 I.1-12
3/7 I.13-II; also look at De Anima III.3 and III.10-11, *De Motu Animalium*
3/12 II
3/14 III. 1-5
3/19 III.6-12, V.5, skim IV **Take Home Exam due, also CLEAR YOUR PAPER TOPIC WITH ME BY THIS
DATE**
3/21 Bonus spring break: no class!
3/26-28 Official Spring Break
4/2 VI
4/4 VII.1-10, selections from Protagoras
4/9 VII.11-14, X.1-5
4/11 VIII.1-5, IX.8-12
4/16-18 out of town: meet in my absence for peer editing. Email me your papers as word documents by
the end of the weekend for comments. No comments for papers received after midnight Sunday.
4/23 X 6-8, Bush article
4/25 cont., grand finale
**Final paper due Thurs, May 2nd 10am, under my door or via email. If the paper is late, email it to me, I
will not check my office again.**