

Course number		U-LAS00 10030 LE34					
Course title (and course title in English)		Ethics I-E2 Ethics I-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Letters Senior Lecturer, Campbell, Michael	
Group		Humanities and Social Sciences		Field(Classification)		Philosophy(Foundations)	
Language of instruction		English		Old group		Group A	
				Number of credits		2	
Number of weekly time blocks		1		Class style		Lecture (Face-to-face course)	
				Year/semesters		2025 • First semester	
Days and periods		Wed.4		Target year		Mainly 1st & 2nd year students	
				Eligible students		For all majors	
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
<p>The Philosophy of Plato</p> <p>In this course we will examine Plato ' s philosophy, taking a synoptic look at his work and engaging with his conceptions of ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology. Along the way we will examine the historical context in which Plato was working, considering how his work relates to his predecessors (in particular, Socrates) and successors (in particular, Aristotle). We will examine the dialogue form and Plato's distinctive combination of myth and argument to illustrate his beliefs. We will combine lectures that introduce the broad themes with close reading of selected passages from Plato ' s dialogues. Through a combination of lectures, groupwork, and written assignments, students will learn how to analyse, evaluate, and debate philosophical subjects.</p>							
[Course objectives]							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students will gain a deeper understanding of Ancient Greek philosophical thought, particularly the work of Plato, which will be introduced by the instructor. - To familiarise students with some of the aims, methods and problems of Western philosophy, especially concerning ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology. - Students will develop their ability to write philosophical essays in English using critical reasoning, argument construction and criticism, and to express their ideas in English with their classmates. 							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
<p>I: Crito The social contract, moral obligation, and civil disobedience.</p> <p>II: Apology Virtue, knowledge, and the examined life.</p> <p>III: Euthyphro The nature of piety, Socratic questioning, and the relationship between gods and morality.</p> <p>IV: Phaedo 69-84 The Forms, the nature of the soul, and philosophy as preparation for death.</p> <p>V: Meno</p>							
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Ethics I-E2(2)

Can virtue be taught? Knowledge as recollection and its connection to the Forms.

VI: Republic 327-354

What is justice? Is justice good in itself? The tripartite soul and the analogy between individual and political justice.

VII: Republic 507-520

The Forms, the allegory of the cave, and the philosopher's role.

VIII: Symposium 201-212

The ascent to higher truths through love and the role of eros in philosophical development.

IX: Phaedrus 246-257

The tripartite soul, the Forms, and the nature of true rhetoric.

X: Philebus 11-17, 20-31

The nature of pleasure, its hierarchy, and its relationship to reason and the good.

XI: Theaetetus 151-199

The search for a definition of knowledge and the challenge of relativism.

XII: Parmenides 127-135

Logical problems with the Forms, unity, and plurality. The Third Man Argument.

XIII: Republic 595-614

Mimesis, the nature of imitation, and art's deceptive power.

XIV: Sophist 236-264

The distinction between the sophist and the philosopher, the problem of falsehood, and the nature of reality.

[Course requirements]

A good level of English comprehension (listening, reading and writing) is necessary for this course. No previous knowledge of philosophy is presumed, though familiarity with the background concepts of the discipline will be an advantage. No knowledge of Ancient Greek is required. All texts will be provided in advance, where possible in both English and Japanese translation.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Final grade will be determined through 5 quizzes spaced throughout the semester. Each quiz will be given a score between 1-20.

[Textbooks]

Relevant texts for the seminar will be made available on PandA in advance

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Texts to be read for class will be uploaded to PandA in advance. Each week students should expect to read a small amount of philosophy in English.

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Ethics I-E2(3)

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Communication via email and PandA. Instructors office hours to be found on KULASIS or by enquiry.