

Course: PHIL 010: Plato and Philosophical Inquiry

1. Date of Application: 11/19/201
2. Name, Dept of Proposer: W. Harter, Philosophy
3. Name of Dept/Program housing course: Philosophy
4. Name of Chair/PD: W. Harter
5. How often is the course taught:yearly
6. Course Prerequisites:none
7. Unit value of course:1
- 8: Normal Class Size: 25
9. Number of sections expected Fall 2012:1
10. Number of sections expected Spring 2013:1
11. Is the course appropriate for first-year students: Yes
12. Relevant Learning Goal(s):Common Good
13. Chair will oversee submission of student work: Yes
14. Chair will oversee instructor participation in norming/asst: Yes

15. Teaching: Primary text is Plato's Republic, an extended inquiry to the nature of justice, as it exists in the soul of citizens, and is manifest in the common life of political society. Integral to the discussion is the problem of good. Can the undivided (common) good of political association become the highest good of individual citizens? Is the highest good of the human person qua human something more than the good possible to one who is merely part of a whole (social or political order)? And finally, is the good proper to the virtuous citizen subalternated to the good of the human person, or is it inevitably opposed and thereby leading to the fundamental problem for each of us: Will I choose a life of civic virtue or a life suited to the divine? Answering these questions result in demonstrating the 3 learning outcomes of CC learning goal, Common Good.

16. Learning: This course is taught in the mode of seminar; each day each student is expected to be ready and able to return to the conversation in progress, to summarize and refine the argument as it develops in the class, and by direction from the text, and to lead the class forward as it follows Plato in the question of justice. At midterm the student presents a draft of an essay in progress, which then becomes the basis of individual conversations with the instructor, on how to clarify and respond to the questions raised by Plato. By means of this individualized direction the instructor will discern the limits of the student's capacity to 1) Reflect and write substantively on ways in which human beings find fulfillment in community, 2) Articulate, in prose or through another communicative medium, a critical account of just social order, and 3) Demonstrate coherent, principled analysis of concrete social problems.