

Course Number

Classics 350

Course Title

Greek and Latin Literature: Plato as a Writer

Quarter/Year

Fall 2021

Day/Time

TTH 2-3:20

Instructor

Wallace

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

VI



Course Description:

Although Plato is primarily known as a philosopher, he was also an extraordinary writer, of dramatic dialogues (in their way like plays), myths (including the Republic's religious myth of Er and the Timaeus' historical myth of Atlantis), speeches of many types (including the Menexenos funeral oration (something of a parody) and Sokrates' Apology (some including NU's Ken Seeskin have also considered this a parody), purporting to be his defense speech in court), history (of philosophy and political history), and (some believe) letters (the extant letters are fascinating, but may be mid-fourth-century forgeries). The course will consist of a critical reading and discussion of a number of Plato's short texts or excerpts of longer dialogues.

Required Textbooks

John M. Cooper, ed., Plato Complete Works, Princeton 1997.
ISBN-10: 0872203492
(Only use this translation)

Assessments

2-pp. critical papers on different topics, and a final 5-10 pp. paper on a topic following consultation with the teacher. No exams.