

Greek 10/30: Plato's *Alcibiades*

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Office hours: Tue 10:30-11:30; Fri 3:30-4:30; and by appointment

MWF 1:45-2:50
X-hour Thu 1-1:50
107 Dartmouth Hall

Required Books:

Plato, *Alcibiades*, ed. N. Denyer. Cambridge University Press. 2001.

Liddell & Scott, *An Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon*. Clarendon Press. 1987.

Recommended Books:

Smyth, H. W., *Greek Grammar*, rev. G. M. Messing. Harvard University Press. 2004.

Class Schedule

Week 1:
9/21-9/23

Introduction

Who was Alcibiades? Why read Plato's *Alcibiades*?

Secondary Reading: N. Denyer, "Introduction" (pp. 1-27); M. McGregor, "The Genius of Alcibiades." *Phoenix* 19 (1965): 27-50.

Week 2:
9/26- 9/30

Platonic love

Eros, courtship, and Greek homosexuality.

Primary Reading: 103-107e.

Secondary Reading: G. R. F. Ferrari, "Platonic Love." In *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. R. Kraut. 1992: 248-76. **OR** J. Dover, "Classical Greek Attitudes to Sexual Behavior," *Arethusa* 6 (1973) 59-73.

Week 3:
10/3-10/7

Will to power

Alcibiades' unbridled ambition (and Socrates' role in fulfilling it).

Primary Reading: 108-111d.

Secondary Reading: D. Gribble, "Introduction," *Alcibiades and Athens*: 1-28. **OR** S. Forde, "The Alcibiadean Moment," *The Ambition to Rule*: 12-67.

Week 4:
10/10-10/14

War, Peace, and Justice

The knowledge of justice as the basis for politics.

Primary Reading: 111e-115c
Secondary Reading: R. Kraut, "The defense of justice in Plato's *Republic*." In *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, ed. R. Kraut. 1992: 311-337.

Week 5:
10/17-10/21

Dialectics and the Socratic elenchus

At least I know that I don't know anything...

Primary Reading: 115d-117e
Secondary Reading: G. Vlastos, "The Socratic Elenchus." *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy I* (1983): 27-58.

Week 6:
10/24-10/28

Alcibiades' Global Ambition

Sparta and Persia as the real competitors.

Fri 10/28

Midterm exam

Primary Reading: 118-122b
Secondary Reading: Selections from Herodotus and Thucydides (in translation).

Week 7:
10/31-11/4

Know Thyself

The wisdom of the Seven Sages.

Primary Reading: 122c-126c
Secondary Reading: C. G. Tortzen, "'Know thyself': a note on the success of a Delphic saying."

Week 8:
11/7-11/11

Self-cultivation

How does one care for oneself?

Primary Reading: 126d-129e

Week 9:
11/14-11/18

Body & Soul

Cultivating the soul and neglecting the body.

Primary Reading: 130a-133c
Secondary Reading: T. M. Robinson, "The defining features of mind-body dualism in the writings of Plato." In *Psyche and Soma*, eds. J. P. Wright and P. Potter. 2000. **OR** O. Goldin, "Self, Sameness, and Soul in *Alcibiades I* and the *Timaeus*." *FZPhTh* 40 (1993): 5-19.

Week 10:
11/21

The Soul's Reflection

How can the soul know itself?

Primary Reading: 133d-134d
Secondary Reading: D. M. Johnson, "God as the True Self: Plato's *Alcibiades I*." *Ancient Philosophy* 19 (1999): 1-19.

Thanksgiving recess

Week 11:
11/28-11/30

The Philosophical Life
Pursuit of virtue.

Primary Reading: 134e-135e

Secondary Reading: D. Clay, "The Origins of the Socratic Dialogue." In *The Socratic Movement*, ed. P. A. Vander Waerdt. 1994: 23-47.

Week 12:

Thu (12/4)

Final Examination 3-6 pm

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be based on one one-hour translations exam, a three-hour final exam, one paper (7-10 pages), short class presentations, and class participation.

Midterm	20%
Paper (due)	25%
Final Examination	30%
Class Presentation	15%
Class Participation	10%