

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Summer Quarter 2024

Plato's *Gorgias* and *Phaedrus*

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Noah Chafets	COURSE LENGTH: 8 Weeks DATES: June 14 th – August 2 nd	Remote Course
EMAIL: nochafets@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Friday TIMES: 1:00 – 4:15 pm	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC70241.24U1 PREREQUISITES: None

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The *Gorgias* and the *Phaedrus* are two of Plato's greatest dialogues. They are most commonly grouped together because at the core of each of them is a philosophical discussion of rhetoric, and the two discussions overlap and diverge in interesting ways. They are also both interested in desire (and love in particular), motivation, moral development, ethics and mythmaking. At once philosophically challenging and hauntingly beautiful, these dialogues offer rich portraits of Socrates and his acquaintances, and of the people, culture and politics of classical Athens.

I will provide written questions to serve as starting points for our class discussions, but there is no fixed agenda or methodology for the course apart from the aim to discover whatever we can about these dialogues through close reading and probing conversation.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Plato. *Gorgias*. Translated by Donald Zeyl. Hackett Publishing Company. ISBN 9780872200166.
2. Plato. *Plato on Love*. Translated by C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett Classics. ISBN 0872207889.

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

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DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 June 14	Plato	<i>Gorgias</i> , 447a-461b
WEEK 2 June 21	Plato	<i>Gorgias</i> , 461b-468e
WEEK 3 June 28	Plato	<i>Gorgias</i> , 468e-481b
WEEK 4 July 5	Plato	<i>Gorgias</i> , 481b-506c
WEEK 5 July 12	Plato	<i>Gorgias</i> , 506c-527e
WEEK 6 July 19	Plato	<i>Phaedrus</i> , 227a-242a
WEEK 7 July 26	Plato	<i>Phaedrus</i> , 242a-259d
WEEK 8 August 2	Plato	<i>Phaedrus</i> , 259d-279c

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.