



**BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS**  
**September, 2024**  
**Reading Aristotle's *On the Soul (De Anima, Peri Psyches)***

COURSE INFORMATION		
COURSE TITLE Reading Aristotle's <i>On the Soul</i> ( <i>De Anima, Peri Psyches</i> )	CODE & SECTION BASC 80038 24U1	LENGTH OF COURSE 3 weeks Sept. 5 to Sept. 19
COURSE SCHEDULE: DAYS: Thursdays 9:30am to 11:00am	CLASS LOCATION Online	INSTRUCTOR Clare Pearson EMAIL: <a href="mailto:cepearson@uchicago.edu">cepearson@uchicago.edu</a>

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**

In this relatively short but important and foundational work, Aristotle explores the nature of the life force, otherwise called the psyche or soul. Soul, as Aristotle addresses it, is a philosophical and scientific concept rather than a religious one, necessary to explain how a complex organism can actually be an organism; it further explains movement, growth, sensation, and mind. Aristotle also addresses whether the soul can die, and what this means. In this class we will engage in a close reading and discussion of his questions and argument, also exploring its relation to other forms of thinking about "soul." We will use the New Hackett Aristotle edition titled *De Anima*. Please read up to p.25 for the first class.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Aristotle, *De Anima (The New Hackett Aristotle)*, tr. CDC Reeves. Hackett Publishing Company, Sept 2017, ISBN 978-1624666193

# WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

(Please note that the schedule is approximate and may be adjusted to the needs and pace of the class, and that reading assignments may outpace the discussion to some degree)

WEEK	Author	TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT
<b>Week 1</b> Date: Sept. 5	Aristotle	<i>De Anima</i> , Book 1 (pages 2-20) and sections 1 & 2 of Book 2 (the definitions of the soul, pp. 21-25): Introduction and past thought about the soul; starting definitions
<b>Week 2</b> Date: Sept. 12	Aristotle	<i>De Anima</i> , Book 2 - all (through p. 45) What the "soul" does: basic capacities
<b>Week 3</b> Date: Sept. 19	Aristotle	<i>De Anima</i> , Book 3 all (pp. 45-66) Higher capacities: understanding and the ability to initiate movement, the unity of the soul

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](mailto:disabilities@uchicago.edu).