

**Syllabus for Graduate tutorial on Ancient Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle.**  
**American University of Beirut**  
**Spring 2010**  
**Dr. Johns**

This tutorial serves as an in-depth introduction to the most important texts of Plato and Aristotle. We will examine Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Categories*, *Metaphysics* (Books I – IX; XII – XIV), and *Nicomachean Ethics*. Students are expected to write a one-page Response paper each week, and to submit on 1000 word paper and a 2000 word research paper at the end.

<b>1. Plato, <i>Republic</i></b>	Book I What is justice? Various attempts at definition, and the challenge of Thrasymachus.
<b>2.</b>	Book II Can the just person be happy? (or, is the just life worth living) The Ring of Gyges (or, of the Shepherd) Justice in the soul as a reflection of Justice in the polis.
<b>3.</b>	Book III Education in the polis
<b>4.</b>	Book IV Political justice completed. The four cardinal virtues introduced. Justice in the individual. The parts of the soul. The relation between political justice and the parts of the soul.
<b>5.</b>	Book V Life of the guardians The philosopher-king. Theory of Forms introduced
<b>6.</b>	Book VI The character of the philosopher-king. The education of the philosopher-king. The sun as analogy for the Form of the Good The Divided Line
<b>7.</b>	Book VII The Allegory of the Cave Further education of the philosopher-king
<b>8.</b>	Book VIII Taxonomy: Political constitutions: democracy, oligarchy, timocracy, tyranny, aristocracy.
<b>9.</b>	Book IV Constitutions reflected in individual soul. Happiness and justice. Law is for those who are insufficiently ruled by reason.
<b>10.</b>	Book X Banishment of the poets. The Myth of Er.
<b>11. Aristotle</b>	<i>Categories</i> At least through Book 8
<b>12.</b>	<i>Metaphysics</i> : Books I and VII,
<b>13.</b>	<i>Metaphysics</i> : Books IX; XII – XIV
<b>14.</b>	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Books I - III
<b>15.</b>	Books IX and X