

Ursula Coope
Greek Ethics

Readings for Weeks 1-5

In the first five weeks of the course, we shall study two short works of Plato: the Apology and the Meno. By far the most important (and the only essential) readings for the course are these two works.

The Apology and the Meno are both contained in:

Plato. Five Dialogues. Translated by G.M.A.Grube. (Hackett, 1981)

(Multiple copies of this should be available in Waterstone's Bookshop.)

The same translation (along with translations of all of the rest of Plato's surviving work) can be found in:

John M Cooper (ed), Plato Complete Works (Hackett, 1997)

(There is a copy of this on the short loan shelf in Birkbeck library, and there are also copies at Waterstone's.)

If you already have another translation and want to use that, that's fine – just be aware that it might not always be quite the same as the translations I am using in class.

Essential Weekly Readings:

For Week 2: Plato's Apology and Plato's Meno up to 79e (note that we shall return to 77b-78c in week 4's reading)

For Week 3: Plato's Meno 80a-86c

For Week 4: Plato's Meno 77b-78c, 86c-89d.

For Week 5: Plato's Meno 89d-end

Further Background Reading:

N.B. It is much more important to do the essential reading carefully and thoughtfully than it is to read this background material.

A good brief introduction to Socrates is:

C.C.W. Taylor Socrates (OUP) (In the short loan collection in Birkbeck library.)

Several helpful articles are collected in:

Jane M Day (ed), Plato's Meno in focus. (Routledge, London, 1994). (In the short loan collection in Birkbeck library.)

Of these, I would particularly recommend:

For a good, brief introduction to Socrates: I.G. Kidd 'Socrates'

For week 3's reading: J. Moravcsik 'Learning as recollection'

G. Vlastos 'Anamnesis in the Meno'

For week 4's reading: G. Nakhnikian 'The first Socratic paradox'

For week 5's reading: K.V. Wilkes 'Conclusions in the Meno'