

**Greek Philosophy**  
**Plato and the Presocratics**  
**Readings for lectures**

Translations of Plato's dialogues may be found in two collections:

John M. Cooper ed. *Plato Complete Works*, Hackett 1997 (with helpful introduction)

Hamilton & Cairns eds. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*, New York 1961

In addition, individual dialogues are also translated in series published by Penguin, by Hackett, and in the Oxford Clarendon Plato Series (with commentaries).

Translations of the work of the major PreSocratics may be found in:

J. Barnes, *Early Greek Philosophy*, Penguin 1987

Kirk, Raven & Schofield, *The PreSocratic Philosophers*, Second Edition, CUP 1983

Some useful, general books on Plato and on the PreSocratics are:

R. Kraut ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*, CUP 1992

A.A. Long ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy*, CUP 1999

J. Barnes, *The PreSocratic Philosophers*, Routledge & Kegan Paul 1979

Some (by no means exhaustive) advice on further reading relevant to the topic of each lecture is given below. Extensive advice on further reading may be found in the University of London *Study Guide*, in the section on Greek Philosophy, and there are useful bibliographies in each of the two Cambridge Companions listed above.

## **Schedule of Lectures**

(1) Can we Inquire? Meno's Paradox of Inquiry

Key Text: Plato *Meno* 79-86

Further reading: Jane Day ed. *Plato's Meno in Focus*

Gail Fine, 'Inquiry in the *Meno*' in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*

(2) Why be Puzzled? Socratic Method

Key Text: Plato *Meno* 79-86, 96-98

Further Reading: G. Vlastos, 'The Socratic Elenchus: Method is all' in his *Socratic Studies*

Nehamas, 'Meno's Paradox and Socrates as Teacher', in Day ed. *Plato's Meno in Focus*

Gareth Matthews, *Socratic Perplexity*, esp. chs 5-7

(3) Puzzles about Particulars 1: Recollecting Forms

Key Text: Plato *Phaedo* 72-78

Further Reading: David Bostock, *Plato's Phaedo*, esp ch. 4

Dominic Scott, *Recollection and Experience*, esp. ch. 2

(4) Puzzles about Particulars 2: Forms as Explanations

Key Text: Plato *Phaedo* 96-103

Further Reading: G. Vlastos, 'Reasons and Causes in the *Phaedo*' in Vlastos ed. *Platonic Studies*

David Sedley, 'Platonic Causes', *Phronesis* 43, 1998.

(5) Forms and Particulars 1: Philosophical Understanding

Key Text: Plato *Republic* 473-480

Further Reading: Julia Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic* ch. 8

Gail Fine 'Knowledge and Belief in *Republic* 5-7', in Fine ed. *Plato 1*

## **Reading Week**

(6) Forms and Particulars 2: Understanding & the Good

Key Text: Plato *Republic* 504-518

Further Reading: J. Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic* ch.10

N. White, 'Plato's Metaphysical Epistemology', in *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*

(7) Review Lecture: Platonic Forms

Key Text: as for lectures 3-6, plus Plato *Symposium* 210-212 & *Republic* 595-8

Further Reading: J. Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*, ch. 9

T. Irwin, 'Plato's Heracliteanism', *Philosophical Quarterly* 1977

A. Nehamas, 'Plato on the Imperfection of the Sensible World', in Fine ed. *Plato*  
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(8) & (9) Criticisms of Forms: Plato's *Parmenides*

Key Text: Plato *Parmenides* 126-136

Further Reading: M.L. Gill, *Plato Parmenides* (tr. with lengthy introductory  
essay)

G. Vlastos, 'The Third Man Argument in the *Parmenides*' in R.E. Allen ed.  
*Studies in Plato's Metaphysics*

M.M. McCabe *Plato's Individuals*, esp. ch. 3

C. Meinwald, 'Goodbye to the Third Man', in *The Cambridge Companion to  
Plato*

(10) Two of Plato's Predecessors: Parmenides and Zeno

Key text: the work of the PreSocratics Parmenides & Zeno, as found in Barnes,  
*Early Greek Philosophy* or Kirk, Raven & Schofield, *The PreSocratic  
Philosophers*

Further Reading: Relevant sections of Barnes, *The PreSocratic Philosophers*

M.M. Mackenzie, 'Parmenides' Dilemma', *Phronesis* 1982

G.E.L. Owen, 'Eleatic Questions', in his *Logic, Science & Dialectic*

W.C. Salmon ed. *Zeno's Paradoxes*

