

## PIU44013 and PIU44011 | Ancient Philosophy

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<b>Credits:</b>	<b>PIU44013 (5ECTS) and PIU44011 (10ECTS)</b>
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Pre-requisite:</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>Semester:</b>	<b>Michaelmas term</b>
<b>Lecturer(s):</b>	<b>Professor Vasilis Politis</b>
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<b>Room Number:</b>	<b>Plato Centre (1937 Building)</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>TBA</b>

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### **Module Outline:**

#### **LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP IN PLATO AND ARISTOTLE**

The aim of the seminar is to explore ideas of love, of friendship, and of the relation between them. We will take our starting point in Plato's two dialogues on love, *Phaedrus* and *Symposium*, as well as his dialogue *Lysis* in which he combines love and friendship. We will examine the psychological, moral and existential import of Plato's ideas, and bring them into conversation with cognate or opposed modern views, including Nietzsche, Christianity and Kant.

The seminar will also concentrate on Aristotle's account of friendship and the different kinds of friendship that he distinguishes. Here we will read (but selectively!) books 8 and 9 of *Nicomachean Ethics* and book 7 of *Eudemian Ethics*. Especially interesting is Aristotle's view that friends share in a single life, and that friendship is essential for self-knowledge.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will gain an in-depth knowledge of central themes in Plato's and Aristotle's account of love and friendship
- Students will be able to relate this knowledge to current philosophical issues

## **Recommended Reading List**

To be announced on Blackboard

### **Assessment:**

- **5 ECTS:** 1 essay (60%). 1 exam, 1 question to answer (40%)
- **10 ECTS:** 2 essays (60%). 1 exam, 2 questions to answer (40%)