

PIU11053 — History of Philosophy I A

Module Information	
Module Code	PIU11053
Module Title	History of Philosophy (Plato on Good and Evil)
Department	Philosophy
Year Group	Junior Freshman
Module Personnel	Professor Vasilis Politis
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 ECTS
Semester	1
Contact Hours	11

Module Content	
Module Description	The aim is to explore and obtain an overview of Plato's ethics and moral psychology, by attending especially to his thoughts on the Good and on Evil. For Plato, the Good is the final object of all desire, or desire of a person who is not evil. So, it is an ethical principle, but it is also the ultimate cause of all things. This means it is also a metaphysical principle. Since Aristotle, ethics and metaphysics have come apart; but for Plato they are inseparably connected. Regarding Plato on the Good, critical questions include: • Does everyone desire the Good? Or only those who are not Evil? • Where regarding us is Evil? In our actions? In our soul? What is the soul? • Is the Good objective/real? • Is the Good absolute (i.e. unmixed with Evil)? • What is it to know the Good? • Is knowing the Good necessary for being good? Is it sufficient? Regarding Plato on evil, critical questions include: • Where regarding us is the Good? In our actions? In our soul? What is the soul?

Module Content

	• Can one desire something Evil, if one believes that it is evil? • What is Evil in the soul? Is it simply an ignorance of the Good? Is it simply one's soul being disorderly, as a result of not being ruled by reason? • Does an evil person desire the Good? • Is an evil person actively opposed to the Good? Is he in rebellion against the Good?
Module Learning Aims	See above.
Learning Outcomes	See above.
Indicative Reading / Resources	TBA.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Exam and Essay.
Assessment Details	Exam worth 50% and Essay worth 50%.

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None.
Co-requisites	None.