

Course codes: BMI-FILD-232.04, BBN-FIL18-232.03, BBN-FIL-232.08, BMA-FILD-232.14, BBV-020.0010

Course title: **Aristotle: Ethics, psychology and metaphysics**

Instructor: László Bene, Associate professor

Wednesday, 14.00-15.30 (Building i, 1st floor, Room 129)

Schedule: 10 and 17 September (no class on 24 September); 1, 8, 15 and 22 October; 5, 12, 19 and 26 November; 3 and 10 December.

General aim and content of the course:

Aristotle was a towering figure in classical Greek philosophy, whose legacy continues to shape the philosophical tradition to the present day. This course provides insight into the fundamental problems in three areas of his philosophy: ethics, psychology and metaphysics. Selected texts from the Nicomachean Ethics, On the Soul, The Categories and Metaphysics will be read and discussed. The topics to be discussed are as follows:

1. Aim and method of ethical inquiry (Nicomachean ethics Book I)
2. Virtues of character (Nicomachean ethics Book II)
3. Moral responsibility (Nicomachean ethics Book III)
4. Theoretical and practical reason; two forms of well-being (Nicomachean ethics Book VI, Book. X.1-5)
5. Soul and body (On the soul I and II.1-3)
6. Sense-perception (On the soul II.5, 7 and 12; III.1-2)
7. Imagination and thought (On the soul III.3-8)
8. Locomotion and desire (On the soul III.9-11)
9. Substance and accidents (Categories 1-5)
10. The science of being as being (*Metaphysics* IV.1-4; V.7)
11. Substance in Aristotle's later thought (*Metaphysics* VII.1-4, 13 and 17; Met. VIII.6)
12. Aristotle's theology (*Metaphysics* XII.6-10)

Requirements:

- Students are expected to **attend the sessions (3 absences at most)**, to prepare the readings for the classes, and to actively participate in the discussion;
- to turn in **four short papers** on the source texts which are discussed in the classes (**500 words each**) during the semester;
- to turn in **a paper (1500-2000 words)** that makes use of an article or book chapter of their choice from the secondary literature by Mid-December (the choice must be agreed with the instructor in advance);

Grading will be based on home-works (40% + 40%) and on in-class activity (20%).

Mandatory readings:

Aristotle: Categories, On the Soul, Metaphysics Bk. IV, VII, VIII, IX, XII; Nicomachean ethics I-III, VI, X, in: Barnes, J., ed. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*, Volumes I and II, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984.

Ross, W. D., *Aristotle*, London: Methuen and Co., 1923.

Recommended readings:

Ackrill, J., *Aristotle the Philosopher*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981

Lear, J., *Aristotle: the Desire to Understand*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988

Shields, C., *Aristotle*, London: Routledge, 2007/2014.

Anagnostopoulos, G., *The Blackwell Guide to Aristotle*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

Shields, C., *The Oxford Handbook on Aristotle*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.