Plato’s Early Dialogues
PHIL 501/PHIL 401W/CLSX 405W
Dr. Kelly Arenson
Wednesdays 12-2:40pm
Fall 2021

Course Description & Readings:

Plato’s so-called “early” dialogues are often said to reveal more about the figure of Socrates than the doctrines of Plato. They are all quite short—usually not more than 20 pages. In this course we investigate Socrates’ conversational style, attitude, philosophical positions (if any), and interactions with various interlocutors in the following dialogues, which we will read in full:

- Apology
- Charmides
- Lysis
- Crito
- Euthyphro
- Ion
- Laches
- Hippias Major
- Hippias Minor

We’ll use the translations found in Plato: Complete Works, ed. by John Cooper (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997). ISBN: 978-0872203495. In addition, the primary texts will be supplemented with readings from secondary sources, which will be posted to Blackboard.

This course fulfills the graduate distribution requirement in ancient philosophy.

Course Requirements:

**PHIL 501**
- Presentation paper (max 2000 words)
- Designated questioner of other students’ presentation papers
- Final paper

**PHIL 401W/ CLSX 405W**
- Two papers, approx. 2500 words each
- Two reflection essays
- Peer review of other students’ paper