

Piotr W. Juchacz
Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University
Faculty of Philosophy
juchaczp@amu.edu.pl

Course Title: Socrates-Gadfly and Classical Political Philosophy

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Socrates is undoubtedly one of the most recognized philosophers. Sentenced to death by his fellow citizens, he has become a model of loyalty to his views for future generations. The metaphor of Socrates-Gadfly presented by Plato in Apology became one of two archetypes of philosophical activity. However, is the common recognition connected with it a good knowledge of his views? The aim of the lectures is to present the philosophical views of the historical Socrates against the background of the development of classical political philosophy. On the one hand, it would not be Socrates-philosopher without the contemporary intellectual ferment sown by the Sophist movement. On the other hand, his turn of philosophy towards moral issues was the beginning of a new philosophical reflection in his successors. Thus, Socrates' views will be juxtaposed with the philosophical work of such thinkers as Protagoras, Plato and Aristotle against the background of the development of Athenian democracy.