

## LEARNING MODULE DESCRIPTION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Module title: **Socrates-Gadfly and Classical Political Philosophy**
2. Module code:
3. Term: Spring
4. Duration: 30 hours
5. ECTS: 5
6. Module lecturer: Prof. AMU Dr. Hab. Piotr W. Juchacz
7. E-mail: juchaczp@amu.edu.pl
8. Language: English

### DETAILED INFORMATION

1. Module aim (aims)

After the module, a student:

- is familiarized with the philosophical views of the historical Socrates against the background of the development of classical political philosophy. 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
- possesses the ability to understand and interpret the source texts of classical Greek philosophy
- is able to analyse and compare the core concepts of classical Greek practical philosophy
- knows the influence of Greek philosophy upon European society and culture
- has improved her/his intercultural communication skills in the context of classical Greek philosophy

2. Pre-requisites in terms of knowledge, skills and social competences (where relevant):

No prior knowledge of classical Greek language or culture is required.

### READING LIST (excerpts):

Dialogues of Plato: *Apology, Protagoras, Gorgias, Republic Book I, Crito* (any edition with Stephanus pagination on the margins)

Vernant, Jean-Pierre, *The Origins of Greek Thought*, Cornell University Press, New York 1982.

Kerferd G.B, *The Sophistic Movement*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1981.

Coby, Patrick, *Socrates and the Sophistic Enlightenment. A Commentary on Plato's Protagoras*, Associated University Presses, London 1987.

Annas, Julia, *The Introduction to Plato's Republic*, Clarendon Press, Oxford 1991.

Plato, *Gorgias*, Translated with Notes by Terence Irwin, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1980.

Stauffer, Andrew, *The Unity of Plato's Gorgias: Rhetoric, Justice, and the Philosophic Life*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2006.

Kraut, Richard, *Socrates and the State*, Princeton University Press, Princeton 1984.

Vlastos, Gregory, *Socrates. Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, Cornell University Press, New York 1991.

Suggested readings:

Hansen, Mogens Herman, *Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes*, Bristol Classical Press, London 1999.

Ostwald Martin - *From Popular Sovereignty to the Sovereignty of Law. Law, Society and Politics in Fifth-Century Athens*, University of California Press, Berkeley 1986.

## **SYLLABUS:**

Week 1: The origins of Greek thought

Week 2: On intertwined development of Athenian democracy and practical philosophy

Week 3: The Sophistic movement (Protagoras, Gorgias)

Week 4: The sources of knowledge on Socrates

Week 5: Reading Plato's Apology: Philosophical interpretation

Week 6: Reading Plato's Protagoras (Part I: Who are Sophists?)

Week 7: Reading Plato's Protagoras (Part II: Can virtue be thought?)

Week 8: Reading Plato's Republic I: Introduction

Week 9: Reading Plato's Republic I: Cephalus

Week 10: Physis as the right of stronger: Reading Plato's Gorgias (Part III: Conversation of Socrates with Callicles)

Week 11: Law and Democracy: Reading Plato's Crito

Week 12: Philosophy of Historical Socrates: 10 theses of Gregory Vastos, Part I

Week 13: Philosophy of Historical Socrates: 10 theses of Gregory Vastos, Part II

Week 14: The figure of Socrates in the European culture

Week 15: Summary and the closing discussion