

PHIL 511-01: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*  
Dr. Kelly Arenson  
Thursdays 3:20-6:00pm  
Spring 2020

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a close reading of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. The entirety of the work will be read along with secondary-source material. Topics to be considered include: the nature of happiness (*eudaimonia*), intellectual virtue (e.g., practical wisdom, understanding), virtues of character (e.g., justice, courage), responsibility, moral luck, friendship, the philosophical life, pleasure. More broadly, we will consider whether ethics can be a practical science and whether virtue is an appropriate standard for measuring the goodness of human life and moral action.

## READINGS

We will be using the translation by Terence Irwin (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Hackett, 1999). ISBN: 978-0872204645.

All other readings (from secondary sources) will be accessed through Blackboard.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Presentation Paper (maximum 2000 words)
- Designated questioner of other students' presentation papers
- Term paper

\*This course fulfills the graduate distribution requirement in ancient philosophy.