ARISTOTLE’S
NICOMACHEAN ETHICS

PHIL 511/PHIL 411W/CLSX 411W
Dr. Kelly Arenson
Wednesdays 12-2:40pm
Fall 2022

COURSE DESCRIPTION & READINGS

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, and 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 action.

We will use the translation by Terence Irwin (3rd edition, Hackett, 2019). ISBN: 978-1-62466-815-9

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*PHIL 511*

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

*PHIL 411W/ CLSX 411W*

- Two papers, approx. 2500 words each
- Two reflection essays
- Peer review of other students’ papers.

*This course counts toward the graduate distribution requirement in ancient philosophy.*