

Practical exercises (discussion)

For groups in the Faculty of Business Management, Finance Engineering (Fifu-16) and Business Management (VVFu-16) and in the International Studies Center, Finance Engineering (FIfuc-16) and Business Management (VVFuc-16).

Saulėtekio 11, SRA-I 01. Mondays, every 2nd week, 8:30-10:05, on
September 12, 26, October 10, 24, November 7, December 5, 19.

Lecturer Andrius Kulikauskas:

I am leading these practical exercises for the course instructor, Professor Tomas Kačerauskas. You can contact me by email andrius-jonas.kulikauskas@vgtu.lt or after class.

My goals for these exercises are that:

- * You gain skill at participating in meaningful discussion.
- * You think about Plato's "Republic" and the questions he explores, especially, What is justice?
- * You realize the relevance of his investigations for our own time, for example, in founding and organizing a company.
- * You learn to ask and investigate your own questions and support others, likewise.

You are required to read Plato's "Republic". This book is available online and audio recordings are available at librivox.org. For our exercises, you should be ready to discuss Books I and II on September 26, Books III and IV on October 10, Books V and VI on October 24, Books VI and VIII on November 7 and Books IX and X on December 5.

You are also required to come to each exercise, to participate in discussion and to respect your fellow participants. Our goal is not to debate but to make evident the variety of genuine views and consider how they might all fit together.

You are encouraged to think of your own questions in life and consider how you could investigate them. This is my ultimate purpose for our course. For example, currently my own questions are: How do we behave? and how should we behave?

Each class will typically have the following format.

- * We will start with brief comments by those who are formulating and investigating some question of their own.
- * We will then discuss a general question that I ask you, such as, What is important to learn and teach in life? How would you educate yourself? How would you educate your children? What is happiness? Is it better to be just or seem just? Is it ever right to lie to ourselves or others? Is it right to test the good by treating them badly? Should we make our lives comfortable? How can we figure out what is right or just? Can we truly know anything? How can we know absolutely? How should we value our own opinion and that of others? What is justice? Should a person devote themselves to one activity or several? Should a society or a business consist of one class of people or many classes? How can we figure out our own nature as humans? How can we know ourselves as individuals?
- * I will give you five or ten minutes in quiet to write down what you said or would have liked to say if we had enough time.
- * We will then consider how our dialogue relates to the one in Plato's Republic.

Your participation in the exercises will contribute 30% to your grade for the entire Philosophy course. Professor Tomas Kačerauskas is responsible for your final grade.

Your total score for these exercises will be an average of your daily scores. However, for the total score, the minimum will be 1 and the maximum will be 10. It is important that you attend as many exercises as you can because you will have no option to make them up.

For each exercise you may receive the following score for the day:

- * 0 if you do not attend
- * 5 if you attend but do not say anything meaningful, personal or original
- * 10 if you attend and speak meaningfully
- * 15 if you attend and relate to the discussion some question that you are exploring

You may not use your telephone or computer during class. You may not speak outside of the main conversation. This is so that we all respect our discussion. I may deduct 1 to 4 points from your day's score if I feel you are disruptive. You are welcome to take notes or doodle.

You only need to speak once. I may also add 1 to 4 points to your day's score for what you write if you did not have a chance to speak.

If I feel that our dialogue went very well, so that we learned something new from each other, our energy flowed meaningfully but unpredictably, and participants at times spoke from their heart and at other times observed the whole of the dialogue, then I will add 1 point to the score for each student who spoke that day. If every student who comes to class speaks meaningfully, then I will add 2 points to each student's score for that day. Additionally, if all enrolled students show up for a class, then I will add 2 points to each student's score.

Generally, please raise your hand before speaking, so that I may call on you. Please say your first and last name before speaking. You thus help me keep track of who spoke. I may take photographs or record our dialogue so as to document whether you attended and what you spoke about and also to study how our dialogues flow or not. Please alert me if you have any issue regarding that.

If you have difficulty expressing yourself in English, or difficulty understanding my English or that of any student, please let me know. We will try to speak slowly and clearly and also help you make your point. Improving our English and communication skills, both speaking and listening, are important goals.

I am eagerly waiting to hear what you will have to say!

Lecturer Andrius Kulikauskas