After Virtue Seminar paper from the year 2020 in the subject Philosophy - Philosophy of the Ancient World, grade 1.3, University of Bristol (Philosophy), course: Readings in Value Theory, language: English, abstract: Aristotle expresses it directly with the first sentence of his first book of his Nicomachean Ethics: All we're aiming for is the good life as the highest good. For him, the good life is the reason we live for; this pursuit of happiness, called Eudaimonia, is central to his theory. Throughout history, many people have grappled with the question of what makes a good and fortunate life, and yet today this topic is very present and controversial. In the following, I'll be dealing with Aristotle concerning the best life: to prove that his principle of Eudaimonia is a convincing theory. It’ll be examined, that his conception of a good life is the objectively desirable one. After the central assumption I’ll outline the main features of Virtue Ethics before questioning the plausibility of the Aristotelian theory. I’ll do that by relating to two objections: how it should be judged that material goods are a precondition to Aristotle's best life and how pleasureable the life of a virtuous is. Even though there are more objections, like different interpretations of Eudaimonia or different interpretations of the right measure according to virtue, for example, I’d like to retain with the previous two, as they are the most interesting regarding the 21st century. At last I will give a summary to conclude the elaboration.

What is, according to Aristotle, the best life for humans and is his conception of the best life plausible? Highly controversial when it was first published in 1981, Alasdair Macintyre's After Virtue has since established itself as a landmark work in contemporary moral philosophy. In this book, Macintyre sought to address a crisis in moral language that he traced back to a European Enlightenment that had made the formulation of moral principles increasingly difficult. In the search for a way out of this impasse, Macintyre returns to an earlier strand of ethical thinking, that of Aristotle, who emphasised the importance of 'virtue' to the ethical life. More than thirty years after its original publication, After Virtue remains a work that is impossible to ignore for anyone interested in our understanding of ethics and morality today.

Politics

The Constitution of Agency Under the guidance of Professor Veatch, Aristotle stands forth again as the philosopher who, above all, speaks simply and directly to the common sense of all mankind. Today, Professor Veatch believes, the time may be ripe for a belated recognition that Aristotle is “a truly live option in philosophy.” This discussion begins with the Physics—for Aristotle, the discipline embracing all aspects of the natural world—and examines Aristotle’s doctrine of categories and his celebrated “four causes.” Turning to the De Anima, Professor Veatch casts aside many errors of interpretation which have come about because of mistaken readings of the term soul and gives an intelligible account of Aristotle’s psychology, seen within the context of his system as a whole. Next, the varieties of human achievement are surveyed in Aristotelian terms, with introductory discussions of the Ethics, Politics, and the Poetics. Turning to the Metaphysics, the author demonstrates that the question of the unity of subject matter in Aristotle’s metaphysics does not warrant the great difficulty that has been made of it. Finally—reversing to good effect the traditional order—Aristotelian logic is presented with superb clarity and ease.

The Fall of Man and the Foundations of Science Provides the first full study of Aristotle’s notion of evil and sheds light on its content, potential, and influence.

Aristotle on Man in the Universe Originally published in 1973. This predominantly historical approach in this book heralds a belief that a better understanding of Aristotle the man, and the salient events of his life, leads to a greater insight into his work as a philosopher. This, the first of two volumes, presents interpretations of Aristotle’s life, widely interesting to any Aristotle scholars.

Aristotle on Man in the Universe

Evil in Aristotle Why was (and is) Aristotle right and why are we wrong? In other words, why are Aristotle’s philosophical reflections on man and the world full, real, and convincing and why is so much of our modern philosophy partial and false? This work offers a detailed assessment of Aristotle’s thought in response to these questions. Using man as a case study, this work shows how Aristotle philosophically treats him as a physical, biological, social, political, ethical, creative, poetising, and philosophising object in the world. It then continues by laying out his consequent conclusions regarding the necessary capacities of natural objects in the world. Regarding the
modern philosophical approach to "man", this work shows that it flows from several directions into narcissism, nihilism, and a desire to control and manipulate the world and other people. In short, this work considers these approaches and seeks to show that Aristotle’s philosophy is right, true, and commendable and that our modern philosophy is (often) wrong, vacuous, and distasteful.

The City and Man The first collection of essays on Aristotle's philosophy of human nature, covering the metaphysical, biological and ethical works.

Ethics

On Aristotle: Saving Politics from Philosophy (Liveright Classics)

Politics The first eighth of Aristotle's (384-322 BC) work of political philosophy.

Aristotle for Everybody In this 1988 book, Professor Lear introduces Aristotle's philosophy and guides us through the central Aristotelian texts.

The Household as the Foundation of Aristotle's Polis “Man is a political animal,” Aristotle asserts near the beginning of the Politics. In this novel reading of one of the foundational texts of political philosophy, Eugene Garver traces the surprising implications of Aristotle’s claim and explores the treatise’s relevance to ongoing political concerns. Often dismissed as overly grounded in Aristotle’s specific moment in time, in fact the Politics challenges contemporary understandings of human action and allows us to better see ourselves today. Today, examination of Aristotle’s treatise, Garver finds, reveals a significant, practical role for philosophy to play in politics. Philosophers present arguments about issues—such as the right and the good, justice and modes of governance, the relation between the good person and the good citizen, and the character of a good life—that politicians must then make appealing to their fellow citizens. Compiling Garver’s trilogy on Aristotle’s unique vision, Aristotle’s Politics yields new ways of thinking about ethics and politics, ancient and modern.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe This is a 1988 philosophical introduction to Aristotle, and Professor Lear starts where Aristotle himself starts. The first sentence of the Metaphysics states that all human beings by their nature desire to know. But what is it for us to be animated by this desire in this world? What is it for a creature to have a nature, what is our human nature, what must the world be like to be intelligible, and what must we be like to understand it systematically? Through a consideration of these questions Professor Lear introduces us to the essence of Aristotle’s philosophy and guides us through the central Aristotelian texts — selected from the Physics, Metaphysics, Ethics, Politics, and from the biological and logical works. The book is written in a direct, lucid style which engages the reader with the themes in an active, participatory manner.

 Aristotle Adler instructs the world in the "uncommon common sense" of Aristotelian logic, presenting Aristotle's understandings in a current, delightfully lucid way. Aristotle (384 - 322 B.C.) taught logic to Alexander the Great and, by virtue of his philosophical works, to every philosopher since, from Marcus Aurelius, to Thomas Aquinas, to Mortimer J. Adler. Now Adler instructs the world in the "uncommon common sense" of Aristotelian logic, presenting Aristotle's understandings in a current, delightfully lucid way. By encouraging readers to think philosophically, Adler offers us a unique path to personal insights and understanding of intangibles, such as the difference between wants and needs, the proper way to pursue happiness, and the right plan for a good life.

Aristotle: Edited by Richard McKeon, with an introduction by C.D.C. Reeve. Published by the University of Chicago Press, this collection presents Aristotle's philosophy in a clear and accessible manner.

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De Anima

Aristotle's Politics Christine M. Korsgaard is one of the leading moral philosophers: this volume collects ten influential papers by her on practical reason and moral psychology. She draws on the work of such great philosophers as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, and Hume, showing how their ideas can inform the solution of contemporary and traditional problems.

The Nicomachean Ethics

Aristotle on the Meaning of Man

ARISTOTLE: ON MAN IN THE UNIVERSE Contains five of the works of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, presenting his logic, spiritual and ethical beliefs, and scientific curiosity.

The Politics Book Expounding upon, 'The Republic,' the earlier work of his teacher Plato, Aristotle in 'Politics' examines the various options for governance and their respective values. A detailed and pragmatic approach to the subject, Aristotle's 'Politics' provides much of the foundation for modern political thought.

The Basic Works of Aristotle The fine editions of the Aristotelian Commentary Series make available long out-of-print commentaries of St. Thomas on Aristotle. Each volume has the full text of Aristotle with Bekker numbers, followed by the commentary of St. Thomas, cross-referenced using an easily accessible mode of referring to Aristotle in the Commentary. Each volume is beautifully printed and bound using the finest materials. All copies are printed on acid-free paper and Smyth sewn. They will last.
Aristotle’s Man: The definitive sequel to New York Times bestseller How the Scots Invented the Modern World is a magisterial account of how the two greatest thinkers of the ancient world, Plato and Aristotle, laid the foundations of Western culture—and how their rivalry shaped the essential features of our culture down to the present day. Plato came from a wealthy, connected Athenian family and lived a comfortable upper-class lifestyle until he met an odd little man named Socrates, who showed him a new world of ideas and ideals. Socrates taught Plato that a man must use reason to attain wisdom, and that the life of a lover of wisdom, a philosopher, was the pinnacle of achievement. Plato dedicated himself to living that ideal and went on to create a school, his famed Academy, to teach others the path to enlightenment through contemplation. However, the same Academy that spread Plato’s teachings also fostered his greatest rival. Born to a family of Greek physicians, Aristotle had learned early on the value of observation. Rather than rely on pure contemplation, he insisted that the true path to knowledge is through empirical discovery and exploration of the world around us. Aristotle, Plato’s most brilliant pupil, thus settled on a philosophy very different from his instructor’s and launched a rivalry with profound effects on Western culture. The two men disagreed on the fundamental purpose of the philosophy. For Plato, the image of the cave summed up man’s destined path, emerging from the darkness of material existence to the light of a higher and more spiritual truth. Aristotle thought otherwise. Instead of rising above mundane reality, he insisted, the philosopher’s job is to explain how the real world works, and how we can find our place in it.

Aristotle set up a school in Athens to rival Plato’s Academy: the Lyceum. The competition that ensued between the two schools, and between Plato and Aristotle, set the world on an intellectual adventure that lasted through the Middle Ages and Renaissance and that still continues today. From Martin Luther (who named Aristotle the third great enemy of true religion, after the devil and the Pope) to Karl Marx (whose utopian view rival Plato’s), heroes and villains of history have been inspired and incensed by these two master philosophers—but never outside their influence. Accessible, riveting, and eloquently written, The Cave and the Light provides a stunning new perspective on the Western world, certain to open eyes and stir debate. Praise for The Cave and the Light: “A sweeping intellectual history viewed through two ancient Greek lenses… breezy and enthusiastic but resting on a sturdy rock of research.” —Kirkus Reviews “Examining mathematics, politics, theology, and architecture, the book demonstrates the continuing relevance of the ancient world.” —Publishers Weekly “A fabulous way to understand over two millennia of history, all in one book.” —Library Journal “Entertaining and often illuminating.” —The Wall Street Journal

Aristotle’s New Light on His Life and On Some of His Lost Works, Volume I: This modern interpretation of Aristotelian ethics is ideally suited for undergraduate philosophy courses. It is also an engaging work for the expert and the beginner alike, offering a middle ground between existentially and analytic ethics. Veatch argues for the existence of ethical knowledge, and he reasons that this knowledge is grounded in human nature. Yet he contends that the moral life is not merely one of following rules or duties, nor is human well being something simple. Rather, the moral life, which Veatch calls ‘rational or intelligent living’, is the life of practical wisdom where individual judgement of the particular and the contingent is paramount. Veatch’s Rational Man offers a pluralistic understanding of human well being without lapsing into moral relativism. For those interested in morality and liberty, Rational Man offers fertile ground for developing an account of free and responsible persons. It has profoundly influenced the work of Den Uyl, Campbell, Machan, Miller, Mack, and many others.

Aristotle: a Contemporary Appreciation See

Aristotle One Man in the Universe

Aristotle: “An enlarged version of the Page-Barbour lectures delivered at the University of Virginia in the spring of 1962.”

Plato: Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents and his family that he has never asked before.

Commentary on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics

Aristotle’s Knowledge, however, is an attribute of the soul, and so are perception, opinion, desire, wish, and appetite generally. Animal locomotion also is produced by the soul; and likewise growth, maturity, and decay. Shall we then say that each of these belongs to the whole soul, that we think, that is, and perceive and are moved and in each of the other operations act and are acted upon with the whole soul, or that the different operations are to be assigned to different parts? From Book I: The writings of Greek philosopher ARISTOTLE (384BC–322BC) -student of Plato, teacher of Alexander the Great- are among the most influential on Western thought, and indeed upon Western civilization itself. From theology and logic to politics and even biology, there is no area of human knowledge that has not been touched by his thinking in De Anima which means, literally, On the Soul- the philosopher ponders the nature of life itself. What is the essence of the lifeforce? Can we consider that plants and animals have souls? How does human intellect divide us from other animals? Is the human mind immortal? All these questions, and others that seem unanswerable, are explored in depth in this, one of the most important works ever written on such eternal questions. Students and armchair philosophers will find it a challenging and rewarding read.
Aristotle

The Nicomachean Ethics of Aristotle. This outstanding work by a renowned Plato scholar presents the thought of the great Greek philosopher with historical accuracy and objective analysis. A brief introductory chapter about the philosopher’s life is followed by an in-depth examination of his voluminous writings, particularly the dialogues. A substantial appendix explores works often attributed to Plato.


Aristotle on Man in the Universe

Aristotle. An essential, comprehensive, and accessible guide to the life and works of Aristotle. In On Aristotle: Saving Politics from Philosophy, Alan Ryan examines Plato’s most famous student and sharpest critic, whose writing has helped shape over two millennia of Western philosophy, science, and religion. The first thinker to posit that a society should be ruled by laws and not men, Aristotle was born in Stagira, Macedonia, in 384 BCE. He would go on to join Plato’s Academy and eventually become tutor to Alexander the Great. During his lifetime he would see the revival of Athens following its destruction in the Peloponnesian War, before the ultimate extinction of its radical form of democracy after the Macedonian conquest. Aristotle’s strongly empirical cast of mind was brought to bear on a stunning range of subjects, from rhetoric to physics, from the history of political institutions and mathematics to zoology and botany. The resulting system dominated European thought from the thirteenth to seventeenth centuries. In Nicomachean Ethics and Politics—both excerpted here—Aristotle attempted to delineate the ideal virtues of both public and private life as well as critique the utopian anti-politics of his former teacher, Plato. For Aristotle, life in a polis was the natural state of man and provided the greatest opportunity for human beings to fulfill their potential. Unlike his scientific theories, which would eventually be displaced by Galileo, Newton, and Darwin, Aristotle’s meticulous thinking on the nature of human affairs, ethics, politics, citizenship, and virtue in a civil society remains as vital today as it was in his own time.

Aristotle’s Anthropology

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