

Humane Letters 11: Ancient Greece

April 20 – April 23

Time Allotment: 80 minutes per day

TEACHER NAME: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____

Packet Overview

Date	Objective(s)	Pg.
Monday, April 20	1. Read and annotate Book IV, Chapters 3-5 2. Seminar (1:00pm-2:30pm) <i>OR</i> 3. Self-Evaluation Writing Exercise	2
Tuesday, April 21	1. Read and annotate Book IV, Chapters 6-9 2. Post-Reading Free-Write Exercise	3
Wednesday, April 22	1. Read and annotate Book V, Chapters 1-3 2. Seminar (1:00pm-2:30pm) <i>OR</i> 3. Argument Summary Writing Exercise	4
Thursday, April 23	1. Read and annotate Book V, Chapters 4-7 2. Self-Evaluation Writing Exercise	4
Friday, April 24	R&R	

Additional Notes:

I am so excited to announce that we are beginning optional seminars this week! On Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm, you have the option of joining my Office Hours on Zoom to enjoy a seminar discussion with your fellow classmates and me. Please join promptly at 1:00 pm to begin the discussion. Make sure to have your annotated book with you so that you can reference the text and ask questions. I hope many of you will join me. I am really interested in your thoughts on the book. These great books deserve to be read and discussed with friends!

If you cannot join the seminar on Zoom, no worries! You can complete the alternative writing assignments for the day in this packet. **If you come to the seminar, you do not need to complete the writing assignment. You will be evaluated on your engagement in the seminar.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me. Have a great week!

- i. For each writing assignment:
 - a. Place an MLA formatted four-part header at the top of a new assignment page
 - b. Start each day's assignment at the top of a new page
 - c. Designate and title each assignment with a day of the, followed by the date
 - d. If typing, use double-spacing, Times New Roman, and 12 pt. font
- ii. The text we have been using is *Nicomachean Ethics* (ISBN: 978-0-87220-464-5). If you do not yet have the text, please contact Dr. Shaeffer and Mr. Funes.

Academic Honesty

I certify that I completed this assignment independently in accordance with the GHNO Academy Honor Code.

Student signature:

I certify that my student completed this assignment independently in accordance with the GHNO Academy Honor Code.

Parent signature:

Monday, April 20

Literature Unit: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Lesson 1:

- Read and annotate Book IV, chapters 3-5 (40 min)
- Review Reading Guide Questions
- Seminar *OR*
- complete self-evaluation writing exercise (40 min)

I. Reading Guide Questions: *You do NOT need to give a written response to these but do reference them as you read/after you read in order to clarify your understanding of the text.*

1. Define magnanimity. Describe the magnanimous person. How does magnanimity differ from vanity? Which characters from history or literature possess these characteristics? Explain why Aristotle says that magnanimity is a “sort of adornment of the virtues; for it makes them grater, and it does not arise without them” (1124a).
2. Aristotle points to a nameless virtue in the sphere of honor, and it is related to generosity. What are the extremes of this nameless virtue? Explain Aristotle's argument for why there must be a virtue that is related to ambition.
3. Define mildness. In what direction is the mild person most likely to err? Describe the deficiency related to mildness. The excess associated with mildness is anger; describe the types of anger Aristotle identifies.
4. Aristotle again states that there is no formula for determining a virtuous act for a given situation (1126a33-1126b4). Explain what he means and why he says this.

Option 1: Seminar on Zoom

Your first option for today's assignment is to participate in a seminar on Zoom over Books 1-3 of *Nicomachean Ethics*. Simply join my Office Hours using the link posted on Google Classroom or on the Remote Learning page of the school's website.

Please join promptly at 1:00 pm. Have your annotated book with you so you can -reference the book. Feel free to write down any questions you want to discuss.

Since this is our first time doing a seminar on Zoom, I will give us a few minutes at the beginning to get settled. If you are having trouble getting on Zoom, don't worry! Just shoot me an email and I will do what I can to help.

Option 2: Self-Evaluation Exercise: *If you are unable to join our Zoom seminar, you must complete the following writing assignment. If you participate in the Zoom seminar you do not need to complete this writing assignment.*

After you finish reading and annotating the entire assignment, take a moment to reflect on your own character as it relates to the first five chapters of Book IV: generosity, magnificence, magnanimity, the virtue concerned with small honors, and mildness. Then, write down the ways in which you either achieve, fall short of, or exceed the mean of the ideal embodiment of *three* of those virtues. Make

sure to tie your self-evaluation back to some criteria Aristotle puts forth for each virtue. You do not need to provide quotations, but there should be citations pointing to the criteria you are referencing.

For example, if I were to complete this exercise thinking about the virtue of courage, I might say the following:

I tend to fall short of the ideal embodiment of courage and lean towards the excess of recklessness. I tend to exceed in confidence in fearful situations (III.7 1115b28-29). For example, I often ride my motorcycle without a helmet even though I know the statistics show that a helmet reduces the risk of both death and brain injury by at least 20%. Even with this knowledge, I continue to ride helmetless without experiencing any fear. I am not courageous because I do not feel fear in situations where it is appropriate to be fearful (III.7 1115b17-18).

This exercise should produce approximately a 5-6 sentence paragraph for each of the three virtues.

Tuesday, April 21

Literature Unit: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Lesson 1:

- Read and annotate Book IV, chapters 6-9 (40 min)
- Review Reading Guide Questions (10 min)
- Complete post-reading free-writing exercise (30 min)

I. Reading Guide Questions: *You do NOT need to give a written response to these but do reference them as you read/after you read in order to clarify your understanding of the text.*

1. By what is the friendly person motivated? Will the friendly person treat family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers in the same way? What are the extremes of friendliness?
2. What is truthfulness? What are its extremes? Define self-deprecation. How does Aristotle make distinctions between different kinds of boastfulness? What is at the heart of boastfulness? "Paint" a portrait in words of someone who exhibits this characteristic.
3. What characteristics are at work in the area of amusement and relaxation? Describe the buffoon and the boor, making references to characters in history/literature. The median characteristic is wittiness. What kinds of things will be funny to the witty?
4. The last chapter in book IV deals with the emotion of shame. From what you have read thus far, what is the difference between an emotion and a characteristic?

II. Post-Reading Free-Write Exercise

After you finish reading and annotating the entire assignment, respond in writing to one of the suggested "Opening Questions" (that is, the type of question with which we might "open" a seminar). Use the question as a starting point for your own thinking about Aristotle. The idea is for you to begin understanding Aristotle in order to start thinking along with him.

Your response should be based on what is stated in the text, but you do not need to use quotations. You should, however, include a citation (by page or by line number, when appropriate) when you have something specific from the text in mind.

You should write at least 200 words. To get a sense of how long that is, the previous two paragraphs are 117 words, so aim for about twice that.

Opening Questions

What might Aristotle want us to learn by discussing each of these virtues in such detail beyond what they are generally accepted as being?

Why might Aristotle have ordered the virtues in this progression? Why start with courage and temperance at the end of Book III? Why this order in Book IV? Why end Book IV with the projection that the next discussion will be about justice?

Wednesday, April 22

Literature Unit: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Lesson 1:

- Read and annotate Book V, chapters 1-3 (40 min)
- review guiding questions
- Seminar *OR*
- Argument summary writing exercise (40 min)

I. Reading Guide Questions: *You do NOT need to give a written response to these but do reference them as you read/after you read in order to clarify your understanding of the text.*

1. Read the chapter headings for the whole book in order to gain a glimpse of Aristotle's organization of this topic. Also, as you read chapters 1-2 reflect on the meanings of justice Aristotle defines. How is this different from how Plato discusses justice?
2. Why does Aristotle dedicate the entirety of Book V to this one virtue? In what sense is justice "complete virtue to the highest degree" (1129b31)?
3. Aristotle says that justice is concerned with "goods which are, considered without qualification, always good, but for this or that person not always good" (1129b1-4). What kinds of goods is he thinking of? For what does he say we should pray?
4. With what goods are instances of partial justice concerned? What is the motive at work? If possible, make a Venn diagram of unlawful and unfair and explain. What is the connection of your diagram with justice and partial justice?
5. What is justice as distribution?
6. How is the just both a median and an equal? In what sense is justice as distribution a median? What are the extremes?

Option 1: Seminar on Zoom

Your first option for today's assignment is to participate in a seminar on Zoom over Books 3-4 of *Nicomachean Ethics*. Simply join my Office Hours using the link posted on Google Classroom or on the Remote Learning page of the school's website.

Please join promptly at 1:00 pm. Have your annotated book with you so you can reference the book. Feel free to write down any questions you want to discuss.

If you are having trouble getting on Zoom, don't worry! Just shoot me an email and I will do what I can to help.

Option 2: Argument Summary Exercise: *If you are unable to join our Zoom seminar, you must complete the following writing assignment. If you participate in the Zoom seminar you do not need to complete this writing assignment.*

Summarize the argument as briefly as possible without leaving out any of the steps. This will be like the paraphrasing exercise except you will not need to capture quite as many of the specific details of what Aristotle says, and your sentences should not be few, long, and complex but rather several, short, and simple.

Summarize the argument of both of the following passages (length determined by argument, but aim for at least 3 paragraphs):

Book V.1 1129b27-1130a12

Book V.3 1131a10-28

Thursday, April 23

Literature Unit: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Lesson 1:

- Read and annotate Book V, chapters 4-7 (40 min)
- review guiding questions (10 min)
- Self-evaluation writing exercise (30 min)

I. Reading Guide Questions: *You do NOT need to give a written response to these but do reference them as you read/after you read in order to clarify your understanding of the text.*

1. What is justice in rectification? In what sorts of situations does rectification apply?
2. In chapter five Aristotle introduces the term reciprocity. In the life of the state, to what does this reciprocity refer? How is it different from the other partial forms of justice?
3. Explain Aristotle's diagonal combination of terms. What if the commodity of one party to the exchange is not equal to the commodity of the second party?

4. Explain how justice is a sort of mean. Is it worse to suffer injustice or to commit injustice? Why?
5. Aristotle states that even though one may act unjustly, he is not *ipso facto* an unjust person. What does this mean?
6. In the political realm, what establishes justice? Why don't we allow the rule of a man?
7. After reading chapter 7, answer: how does Aristotle distinguish between just by nature and just by convention?

II. Self-Evaluation Writing Exercise

After you finish reading and annotating the entire assignment, take a moment to reflect on your own thoughts as they relate to justice.

Then, write down the ways in which you either achieve, fall short of, or exceed the mean of the ideal embodiment of justice. Make sure to tie your self-evaluation back to some criteria Aristotle puts forth for this virtue. You do not need to provide quotations, but there should be citations pointing to the criteria you are referencing.

Then, look back to the different species of justice Aristotle describes in Book V Chapters 3-5. Which of these particular species best aligns with your own thoughts about justice? Explain how it aligns with your thoughts and why the other two fail to align as well as the species you chose.

This assignment should produce two 5 sentence paragraphs.

Friday, April 24

R&R