

Platonic and Neoplatonic Doctrines of the Soul (revised)

In its tenth year, the Neoplatonic Studies seminar will focus on the theme of the soul in Neoplatonic Philosophy, with readings from Plato, Plotinus, Proclus, Damascius, Ficino and others. The seminar is, as it has been from its inception, open to all – to those who have and do not have ancient Greek, to those well-versed in ancient Neoplatonic philosophy, and to those who are not. The only requisite is ‘a desire to know’. Each week the seminar studies a short passage or two in English translation (though those who prefer to read the original Greek are not forbidden from doing so).

The seminar is organized by Sara Miglietti (Warburg), Tim Addey (Prometheus Trust), Harold Tarrant (University of Newcastle, Australia) and Dilwyn Knox (UCL).

Texts

Texts will be distributed via email before each session.

Place and time

Seminars will take place via Zoom, Thursday, 5.00-7.00, on the dates indicated below. Below are the dates. The readings for the following weeks will be posted in due course.

Schedule of Readings

2 Nov.	Plato, <i>Alcibiades</i> I, 127d-133c	The real self
9 Nov.	Olympiodorus, Commentary on <i>Alcibiades</i> , I, lecture 23	The real self
16 Nov.	Olympiodorus, Commentary on <i>Alcibiades</i> , I, lectures 24-25	The real self
23 Nov.	Plato, <i>Timaeus</i> , 19b-c, 27d-30b	The creation of the soul
30 Nov.	Plato, <i>Timaeus</i> , 34a-37d	The creation of the soul
7 Dec.	Plato, <i>Timaeus</i> , 41a-44c, 90a-d	The creation of the soul
14 Dec.	Proclus, Commentary on the <i>Timaeus</i> , II, 149.16-150.15, II, 155.3-156.4	The soul's essence, sameness and difference.
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11 Jan.	Proclus, Commentary on the <i>Timaeus</i> , II, 124.5-127.3	The pentad of the soul
18 Jan.	Proclus, Commentary on the <i>Timaeus</i> , III, 324.5-325.18; 296.7-297.20	Descent & ascent of the soul
25 Jan.	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
1 Feb.	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
8 Feb.	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
15 Feb.	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
22 Feb.	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
29 Feb.	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
7 March	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
14 March	Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> , 245c-257b	The journey of the soul
21 March	Proclus, <i>Theology of Plato</i> , I.13	Order of motion
	Hermes, <i>Phaedrus</i> commentary, 125.25-130.5	Symbol of Phaedran chariot
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4 April	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , II.368d-369a, IV.427e-436a	Soul and the cosmos
11 April	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , IV.436a-444a	Soul and the cosmos
18 April	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , IV.444a-445e; X.614b-621d	Soul and the cosmos
25 April	Proclus, Commentary on the <i>Republic</i> , essay 7, 207-217	Tripartite soul and its virtues
2 May	Proclus, Commentary on the <i>Republic</i> , essay 7, 217-226	Tripartite soul and its virtues
9 May	Proclus, Commentary on the <i>Republic</i> , essay 7, 226-235	Tripartite soul and its virtues
16 May	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , 64a-69e	Purification of the soul
23 May	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , 80d-84b	Purification of the soul
30 May	Porphyry, <i>Sentences</i> 1.1-9, 28-29: 'Auxiliaries to the Perception of Intelligible Natures'	
	Damascius, Commentary on the <i>Phaedo</i> , 1.138-144	
	Olympiodorus, Commentary on the <i>Phaedo</i> , 8.2-4	