

## **Plato, *Gorgias***

Three seminars led by Professor Malcolm Schofield on the dialogue. Those intending to participate are asked to bring copies of the text (in translation if preferred). An English translation with introduction and notes is: M. Schofield & T. Griffith, *Plato: Gorgias, Menexenus, Protagoras* (Cambridge 2010), in the series Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Please prepare for each session in advance.

### ***First session – Monday 16 May, 15:50, room 225v***

The focus of discussion will be Gorgias's conception of rhetoric and Socrates' response at 462-5. We shall also look for comparison at sections 8-14 of Gorgias's own Encomium of Helen (Greek text in Diels-Kranz, *Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker* Vol. 2).

### ***Second session – Tuesday 17 May, 17:30, room 225v***

We will focus on the conversation with Polus, from 466A to 481B, together with the myth, 523A-527E. Two articles it may be useful to consult in advance are:

H. Segvic, 'No one errs willingly', *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 19 (2000) 1-45 (especially the Appendix).

D. Sedley, 'Myth, punishment and politics in the *Gorgias*', in C. Partenie (ed.), *Plato's Myths*.

### ***Third session – Wednesday 18 May, 15:50, room 225v***

We shall consider Socrates' conversation with Callicles, with particular attention to the opening exchange (481-6), the passage on the two ways of life (500-1), and the final sequence (509-22), looking at 509-11 in detail.

An article dealing with 509-11 that may be worth consulting is R. Kamtekar, 'The Profession of Friendship: Callicles, Democratic Politics, and Rhetorical Education in Plato's *Gorgias*', *Ancient Philosophy* 25 (2005) 319-39.

MS

27 April 2011