

Old Men Yelling at Clouds

Plato's "The Laws"

Spring 2025 Seminar (HUMC 394-02)



Widely regarded as Plato's most practical political work, *The Laws* is also as his "most loathed work," perhaps because the only people more widely despised than philosophers are lawyers. It is also his longest work, and by some accounts, his most challenging. Its length, complexity, and controversial reputation cries out for an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the text.

The full richness of *The Laws* emerges when viewed through the intersecting lenses of ancient history, political science, and moral philosophy, which is why this class is being led by a historian, a political theorist, and a philosopher. Like the tripartite soul of Plato's moral psychology, harmonizing these three disciplinary approaches to the text will help us not only to understand the many twists and turns of *The Laws*, but also to flourish as scholars and democratic citizens.

Spring 2025 Seminar: HUMC 394-02

Dates: Class: Wednesdays at 4-5:20 p.m.
February 19 through May 7
No class on March 12 (spring break)

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Details: One (1) unit of credit
Pass/fail only
No prerequisites required.
Open to all upper division students.