

Aristotle Research Seminar

OUR PROJECT

Funded by the LSU [Center for Collaborative Knowledge](#), the Aristotle Research Seminar is composed of select faculty and graduate students undertaking to study Aristotle's influence on, and acceptance or rejection by, modern science. We began in academic year 2019-20 studying seven of Aristotle's texts that were foundational to as many disciplines, under one another's guidance. In 2020-21 we read Aristotle's *De Anima* (On the Soul) and then turn to a study of Darwin's *Origin of Species* for contrast. In 2021-22 we will read Darwin's *Descent of Man* and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. Participants agree to read the selections beforehand, with presenters charged to begin and facilitate discussion rather than to lecture at length. We will meet six times during the year, as indicated in the margin.

SESSION ONE: Friday, September 17, 2021, 1:00-3:00 pm
[Prosanta Chakrabarty, moderator]

Darwin, THE DESCENT OF MAN, OR SELECTION IN RELATION TO SEX, author's introduction, ch. 1-3 (pp. 1-106)

[Notes for 9/17 -- Prosanta Chakrabarty](#)

SESSION TWO: Friday, October 29, 2021, 1:00-3:00 pm
[Suzanne Marchand, moderator]

Darwin, THE DESCENT OF MAN, OR SELECTION IN RELATION TO SEX, ch. 5, 7 (pp. 158-184, 214-250)

Discussion Notes on Darwin for Session Two -- Suzanne Marchand

SESSION THREE: Friday, November 19, 2021, 1:00-3:00 pm [Ron Pagano, moderator]

Darwin, *THE DESCENT OF MAN, OR SELECTION IN RELATION TO SEX*, ch. 8 [selection], 20 [selection], 21 (pp. 253-300; v.2 pp. 368-405)

Ron Pagano's Discussion Questions for 11/19

SESSION FOUR: Friday, February 25, 2022, 1:00-3:00 pm [Usha Nathan, moderator]

Reading: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, books 1-3

Usha Nathan's Discussion Notes on ETHICS 1-3

SESSION FIVE: Friday, March 25, 2022, 12:30-2:30 pm [Michelle Zerba, moderator]

Reading: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, books 4 (ch 5-9 only), 5 (ch 1-2, 7, 10-11 only), 6 -7 (entire)

(Note we'll start and end a half-hour earlier than usual for this session only.)

Michelle Zerba, who is leading the discussion, posts four handouts she uses when teaching the *Ethics* which overlap with the reading for this session (and also cover what we discussed last time).

"Examples of the Mean and Criteria for Virtuous Action"

"Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*" (includes summary of book V on Justice)

"Books 3 & 6"

"The Six 'States of Character' (Hexeis, NE, Book 7)"

SESSION SIX: Friday, April 22, 2022, 1:00-3:00 pm [Patrick Martin, moderator]

Reading: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, books 8-10

Pat Martin's Reflections on ETHICS 8-10

PARTICIPANTS

SIMEON BURNS, Political Science

PROSANTA CHAKRABARTY, Biological Sciences / Museum of Natural Science

SUZANNE MARCHAND, History

PATRICK MARTIN, Law

JANET McDONALD, Psychology

USHA NATHAN, Philosophy

RONALD PAGANO, Physics

Ronald Pagano is a third-year PhD candidate in the LSU Department of Physics. He received a BA from St. John's College (Annapolis) and a BS in Physics from the University of New Mexico.

JAMES STONER, Political Science

R. EUGENE TURNER, Oceanography and Coastal Studies

MICHELLE ZERBA, English and Classical Studies