FLF5246 History of Ancient Philosophy (Aristotle’s Psychology: Perception)
1st semester, 2019
Prof. Evan Keeling
08 Créditos
Duração: 12 semanas

I - COURSE OBJECTIVE

In recent decades there has been a resurgence of interest in Aristotle’s ethics and metaphysics from philosophers. A number of contemporary thinkers now call themselves Aristotelians in metaphysics or in ethics. More recently, this influence has spread to epistemology. But with perhaps the unique exception of John McDowell, nothing similar has so far happened for Aristotle’s psychology. The main objective of this course is to evaluate the possibility of a resurgence of interest and influence in Aristotle’s psychology, and especially his theory of perception. We will be particularly attuned to epistemology questions in perception: under what conditions and in what sense are perceptions true and false? What is perception’s relationship to appearance? How does perception contribute to knowledge? The course will not discuss in any detail Aristotle’s theory of mind (nous) or thought.

II - PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Aristotle’s psychological method
The nature of the parts of the soul and types of living creatures
The causes of perception
The five senses
Appearances: dreams, false perceptions
Truth and falsity in perception
III – TEXTS

Our main text will be the *De Anima*, but we will also read and discuss small parts of: *Physics, De Motu Animalium, Posterior Analytics, De Sensu, On Memory, On Dreams, On Divination in Dreams,* and *Metaphysics*

*De Anima*: translations by Shields, Reeve, and Hamlyn  
*Physics*: translation by Waterfield  
*De Motu Animalium*: translations by Nussbaum, and Farquharson  
*Posterior Analytics*: translation by Barnes  
*De Sensu*: translations by Beare, and Hett  
*On Memory*: translation by Sorabji  
*On Dreams/Divination*: translation by Gallop  
*Metaphysics*: translation by Ross

IV – EVALUATION

Dissertation

V - BIBLIOGRAPHY BY TOPIC

*Recent Translations & Commentaries of Aristotle’s De Anima:*
Ronald Polansky, Aristotle’s de Anima; Christopher Shields, Aristotle’s de Anima; CDC Reeve, Aristotle de Anima; Hamyln, Aristotle de Anima; Hicks, Aristotle de Anima  
*On Aristotle’s Psychology in general*
Christopher Shields, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* on Aristotle’s Psychology
Johansen, TK, *The Powers of Aristotle’s Soul*
Jonathan Lear, *Aristotle: The Desire to Understand* chapter 4
Marmadoro, Anna, *Aristotle on Perceiving Objects,*
Modrak, Deborah, *Aristotle: The Power of Perception*
Broadie, Sarah, “Aristotle’s Perceptual Realism”
Chapter in Everson, Aristotle: Epistemology: *Companions to Ancient Thought*
Burnyeat, M, “Is an Aristotelian Philosophy of Mind Still Credible?”
Sorabji, R, “Aristotle on Demarcating the Five Senses”
Johansen, TK *Aristotle on the Sense-Organs*
Everson, Stephen, *Aristotle on Perception*
Caston, V, “The Spirit and the Letter” *On the Five Senses*
Kalderon, Mark Eli, *Form Without Matter: Aristotle and Empedocles on Color Perception*
Johnstone, M. “Aristotle on Odour and Smell”
Johnstone, M. “Aristotle on Sounds”
Silverman, A. “Colour and Colour-Perception in Aristotle’s *De Anima*”
Perceptual Error
Irving Block, “Aristotle on Perceptual Truth and Falsity”
Cashdollar, S., “Aristotle’s Account of Incidental Perception”
Ben-Zeev, A. “Aristotle on Perceptual Truth and Falsity”
Johnstone, M. “Aristotle and Alexander on Perceptual Error”
Phantasia (Imagination/Appearance)
Michael Wedin, Mind and Imagination in Aristotle
Rob Bolton, “Perception Naturalized in Aristotle's De Anima”
The Common Sense
Irving Block, “Aristotle on the Common Sense”
Gregoric, Pavel Aristotle on the Common Sense

Some Other Secondary Literature
Burnyeat, M. “De Anima II.5”, Phronesis.
Carpenter, D. “What is Peculiar to Aristotle’s and Plato’s Psychologies? What is Common to Them Both?”


Johansen, Thomas, *The Powers of Aristotle’s Soul*, OUP.


Moss, Jessica, “Aristotle on the Apparent Good”, OUP.

