Syllabus for a Course on Plato’s Republic
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Commercially available material enables capable discussion leaders to host a course on Plato’s Republic by using the lecture by David Roochnik, available from The Teaching Company in audio CD and DVD, and the translation of Plato’s Republic by Benjamin Jowett available in paperback and audio CD from Agora Publications.

The course by Dr. Roochnik contains 24 half-hour lectures. The audio CD’s from Agora have the ten books of the Republic on ten CD’s, each approximately 60 minutes long.

Material & Resources
Each student would get a copy of the course transcript ($25) for Dr. Roochnik’s lecture and a copy of the paperback book ($20) from Agora, enabling participants to follow along and take notes. The cost to each student for materials would be $45. If the class needs to pay rent for a meeting room, then the cost of the class cannot be estimated without rental quotes.

Facility resources would include: (1) chairs for everyone, (2) electrical outlet, (3) tables would be nice, but not necessary. The class leader will bring a portable CD player.

Suggested Schedule
Assuming a weekly meeting of adults at a recreation center, church, or private residence:

Session 1: Roochnik lecture 1, Plato’s Life & Times & lecture 2, Book 1, the Title and Setting
Session 2: Roochnik lecture 3, Book 1, Socrates vs. Thrasymachus & lecture 4, Book 2, the City-Soul Analogy
Session 3: Book 1 of the Republic from the Agora CD.
Session 4: Roochnik lecture 5, Books 2 & 3, Censorship & lecture 6, Book 3, the Noble Lie
Session 5: Book 2 of the Republic from the Agora CD.
Session 6: Roochnik lecture 7, Book 3, Socrates’s Medical Ethics & lecture 8, Book 4, Justice in the City and Soul
Session 7: Book 3 of the Republic from the Agora CD.
Session 8: Book 4 of the Republic from the Agora CD.
Session 9: Roochnik lecture 9, Book 5, Feminism & lecture 10, Book 5, Who is the Philosopher?
Session 10: Book 5 of the Republic from the Agora CD.
Session 12: Roochnik lecture 13, Book 6, The Divided Line & lecture 14, Book 7, The Parable of the Cave
Session 13: Book 6 of the Republic from the Agora CD
Session 14: Roochnik lecture 15, Book 7, The Education of the Guardians & lecture 16, Book 8, The Perfectly Just City Falls
Session 15: Book 7 of the Republic from the Agora CD
Session 16: Roochnik lecture 17, Books 8 & 9, The Mistaken Regimes & lecture 18, Book 8, Socrates’s Critique of Democracy
Session 17: Book 8 of the Republic from the Agora CD
Session 18: Roochnik lecture 19, Books 8 & 9, The Critique of Tyranny & lecture 20, Book 9, The Superiority of Justice
Session 19: Book 9 of the Republic from the Agora CD
Session 20: Roochnik lecture 21, Book 10, Philosophy vs. Poetry & lecture 22, Book 10, The Myth of Er
Session 21: Book 10 of the Republic from the Agora CD
Session 22: Roochnik lecture 23, Summary and Overview & lecture 24, The Legacy of Plato’s Republic

At this point the syllabus shows 22 hours of lectures and readings. If each session has an additional 30 minutes of discussion then 22 x 1.5 gives 33 hours for this course. Time permitting, a couple of additional sessions would be desirable.

Optional Session 23: One hour discussion among group participants.
Optional Session 24: One hour panel discussion, either from invited panel members or class participants.

If the class has to schedule twice around holidays, then this course could run 26 weeks, half a year. If participants are willing to schedule 2 hour sessions, this would shorten duration of the course.

**High School**

This course could be adapted for a high school. It would be an excellent half-year (one semester) elective course. Considering three 6-week sessions, averaging 4 productive lecture/reading sessions per week (1 session per week of pure discussion), then if each session has only 45 productive minutes:
3 terms x 6 weeks-per-term x 4 sessions-per-week = 72 sessions
72 sessions x 0.75 hours per session = 54 hours, providing plenty of time for discussions, supplementary material, additional research, and writing assignments.

**References**

**The Teaching Company**
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Plato’s Republic is here: