



## ***ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY***

**Prof. Sir Richard Sorabji**

**Length:** 8 weeks

**Structure:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Week: four lectures
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Week - 8<sup>th</sup> Week: seven tutorial sessions
- Four academic writing sessions (two compulsory, two optional)

**Format:** Seven one-hour tutorials occurring online on a weekly basis. Timings will be communicated separately.

**Assessment:** One 2000-word essay to be submitted **14 days** before the final tutorial.

**Assessment Plan:** Select your assessed essay title and provide a brief plan for it during tutorial 3.

**Essay title options:**

- *Students choose their own essay topics and discuss them with Prof. Sorabji.*

---

## Tutorial 1

### Title: Teleological world views in ancient Greece and relevance to theology

Brief description: Aristotle retains purpose in nature without Plato's creator God.

Page | 2

#### Suggested reading:

- Plato Timaeus 29D-31B
- Richard Sorabji, *Necessity, Cause and Blame*, 1980, on Aristotle, Ch. 10, 'Purpose in nature', with opening quotation from Aristotle and the other texts referred to

## Tutorial 2

### Title: Philosophy of religion

Brief description: Creation of the world or Moral conscience.

#### Suggested reading:

- Richard Sorabji, *Time, Creation and the Continuum*, ch 20, esp. pp. 316-318, with index under 'Creation'

or

- Richard Sorabji, *Moral conscience through the Ages*, Oxford 2014

## Tutorial 3

### Title: Catharsis in Aristotle

#### Suggested reading:

- Plato against tragedies, Republic 595A-608B
- Aristotle on catharsis, Politics 8.5, 1339b2-1340a27; 8.7, 1341b32-1342a18
- Richard Sorabji, Emotion and Peace of Mind, Ch. 19
- Richard Janko, Aristotle *Poetics* with reconstruction of *Poetics* II, Hackett 1987

- This session will include a short discussion of the essay topic and plan with some guidance from the Tutor.



## Tutorial 4

**Title: Socrates**

Page | 3

### Suggested reading:

- Plato, *Apology* and *Phaedo*
- Gregory Vlastos, *Socrates, Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, Cambridge University Press, 1991, online 2009.

## Tutorials 5 - 7

**Title: To Be Determined**

Brief description:

Remaining topics will be determined in the light of students' expressed interests as they develop.

### Suggested reading:

- To be announced
- 
- Essay submission 14 days before the final tutorial.

## Tutorial 7

- Discussion of the essays and feedback.