

**Proseminar Virtue and Knowledge in Plato's *Meno***

**Wintersemester 2023/24**

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**Time and Venue:** Tuesdays 10–12 c.t., Hörsaal, Doblerstraße 33, first floor

**Description:** the *Meno* is a fascinating philosophical conversation about two topics which are central to Plato's thought and to philosophy in general: moral excellence or virtue (*aretê*) and knowledge (*epistêmê*). The *Meno* focuses on the question of whether virtue is teachable, which it links to the deeper question of whether virtue consists in knowledge. The attempt at answering these questions leads the interlocutors to examine the very nature of knowledge and the difference between knowledge and mere true opinion (*doxa*) – fundamental themes of epistemology. In this Proseminar we will study the *Meno* in depth, each session focusing on the analysis and assessment of the philosophical ideas and arguments in a particular part of the text. No prior acquaintance with Plato's works will be presupposed. We will study the *Meno* in translation. Participants will be expected to participate actively and to give short presentations, which are meant to introduce parts of the text and to raise questions for the discussion.

The recommended translation of the whole work is: G.M.A. Grube (1980). *Plato: Meno*. Hackett.

Grube's translation can be found in: J.M. Cooper (ed.) (1997). *Plato. Complete Works*. Hackett.

The recommended edition of the Greek text can be found in I. Burnet (ed.) (1903). *Platonis Opera: Tomus III, Tetralogias V–VII Continens*. Oxford University Press.

The following is a very important, fairly recent book on the *Meno*:  
Scott, D. (2012). *Plato's Meno*. Cambridge University Press.