

Spring 2019

HIST 585-5: Special Topics in History:

(cross-listed with ICIVS 770-2/PHIL 789-5/RLR 700-7/CPLT 752R-2)

Topic: Platonism, Neoplatonism (OPUS title)

Platonism, Neoplatonism: from the Ancient to the Medieval Worlds (Complete course title)

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Corrigan	TU	10:00 am – 12:45 am	15

Semester Description:

This course will chart out a path from the study of Plato and Aristotle through the birth of Neoplatonism—with Plotinus [I shall also indicate the Christian dimension of this]—and the later Neoplatonic tradition both pagan and Christian, culminating in what I take to be some final logical developments of that tradition in the thought of Nicholas of Cusa.

1. Introduction
2. Heraclitus, Parmenides
3. Socrates, Plato: *Apology, Crito, Phaedo*
4. Plato: *Symposium, Phaedrus*
5. Aristotle: *Metaphysics*
6. Stoics, Epicureans, Sceptics
7. From Middle Platonism [Alcinous, *Handbook of Platonism*] to Neoplatonism: Plotinus and Porphyry [Origen]
8. Plotinus: *Enneads* 1 6 [1]; VI 9 [9]
9. Understanding and discursive thought: *Enneads* III 8 [30]; V 8 [31]; V 5 [32]
10. Creation/production; soul-body: VI 7 [38]; IV 7 [7] 8⁵
11. Porphyry: *Sententiae*, etc. Iamblichus, *De Mysteriis*
12. Gregory of Nyssa: *De hominis opificio*
13. Proclus: *Elements of Theology, Liber de Causis*
14. Dionysius: *Divine Names*
15. Nicholas of Cusa: *De Docta Ignorantia, De Apice Mentis*

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

1. *Plato: Complete Works* by Plato and John M. Cooper, Hackett, 1997.
2. Course Booklet TBA

Grading:

TBA