You should all be familiar with at least some of Plato’s early dialogues, works like the *Euthyphro*, the *Apology*, and the *Crito*. You may have also read some of Plato’s *Republic* and at least one of his other middle dialogues, for example, the *Phaedo*. This course will focus on Plato’s work on art, beauty, love and aesthetics. This will includes reading his early work, the *Ion*, which provides a theory of inspiration, his *Greater Hippias* (on beauty), his Book X of *Republic* in which he notoriously kicks the imitative arts (including tragic plays) out of the ideal society, his *Symposium*, in which he offers, through Diotima, a theory of love and beauty, and his *Phaedrus*, in which he gives us a theory of rhetoric, love and madness. We will begin by reading a quick review of Plato’s work as a whole as well as *VIIIth Letter* in which he described his own career. *Philebus*, which deals with the nature of pleasure will also be relevant to this study. Guiding us through all of this will be the fifth volume of Guthrie’s history of ancient Greek philosophy. Emphasis will be placed on the history of the secondary literature on Plato as well as some recent debates.

**Texts:**
*Hamilton, Edith and Cairns, Huntington*  
The Cooper translation is also acceptable.

*Guthrie, W.K.*  