

## HPS 2547: Aristotle's Philosophy of Science

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Fall Term, 2000.

The *Posterior Analytics* presents Aristotle's views on the nature of scientific knowledge. And since Aristotle wrote a number of treatises that present the results of scientific research, it is natural to ask whether those treatises reflect the views expressed in the *Posterior Analytics*. Surprisingly, there is little scholarly agreement about the answer to this question. In this seminar we will read the *Posterior Analytics*, *Physics* I, II and portions of Aristotle's biological works with this question in mind. As we do so we will also read various attempts in the scholarly literature to deal with it. Our aim will be to have a reasonable answer to the question by the end of the term.

### Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on an evaluation of your preparation for and participation in weekly seminars and on the quality of a final research paper due near the end of the term.

### Required Reading

Jonathan Barnes, *Aristotle's Posterior Analytics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Oxford 1993.

William Charlton, *Aristotle's Physics I, II*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Oxford, 1996.

Allan Gotthelf and James G. Lennox, eds., *Philosophical Issues in Aristotle's Biology*, Cambridge, 1987.

James G. Lennox, *Aristotle's De Partibus Animalium* (unpublished draft).

Secondary literature on specific topics will be made available in the 'Course Mailbox' in the HPS office, 1017CL.

### Abbreviations

Posterior Analytics (*APo.*), Prior Analytics (*APr.*), Parts of Animals (*PA*),  
History of Animals (*HA*), Generations of Animals (*GA*), Physics (*Phys.*),  
Progression of Animals (*IA*), On the soul (*An.*), On Respiration (*Resp.*),  
Metaphysics (*Met.*), Nicomachean Ethics (*EN*).

### References

All references to passages in Aristotle will be to the page, column and line numbers of the Berlin Academy edition of the works of Aristotle edited by I. Bekker. These numbers are found in the margins of all editions of Aristotle's works. For example: **PA I.1 640a10-15** refers to a passage in the first chapter of the first book of the *De Partibus Animalium* which is found on lines 10 to 15 of the right hand column of page 640 in the Bekker edition.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
8/31	Introduction	Lloyd 1996, Modrak 1996, Wians 1989
9/7	Demonstrative Understanding	<i>APr.</i> I.1, <i>APo.</i> I. 1-7, 22 Burnyeat, 1981.
9/14	Demonstrations?	<i>APo</i> I. 8-13, 24, 27 <i>EN</i> VI. 3, 6, 7 Lloyd 1996, Modrak 1996.
9/21	Inquiry: Seeking the Middle(s)	<i>APo.</i> II 1-2, 7-11, Ackrill 1981, Bolton 1976, Charles 1990.
9/28	Problems and Principles	<i>APo</i> II 14-19, Lennox 1995
10/5	<i>Phusikê epistêmê</i>	<i>Phys.</i> I. 1,2, 7, 8; II. 1,2 Bolton 1991, Freeland in G & L
10/12	Natural causes	<i>Phys.</i> II. 3, 7-8, <i>PA</i> I. 1
10/19	Natural demonstration?	<i>Phys</i> II. 9, <i>PA</i> I.1; Lloyd 1996, Bolton 1997, Detel, 1997.
10/26	A Science of Animals?	<i>PA</i> I. 4-5, II. 1; Lennox 1994
11/2	Aristotelian Zoology	<i>PA</i> II. 1-3, <i>Meteor.</i> IV. 12; G & L, Part I
11/9	Zoological Demonstration?	<i>PA</i> II-IV Selections; G & L, Part II Lennox 1991
11/16	Teleological Explanation	Selections from <i>PA</i> II-IV, <i>GA</i> II-V; G & L, Part III, Meyer 1991, Gottself 1997.
11/30	Living matter and form	Selections from <i>An.</i> II, <i>PA</i> II-IV, <i>GA</i> I-II; G&L, Part IV, Lennox 1997
12/7	Return to 'the problem'	