

PHILOSOPHY SEMINAR

Our meetings in 2011 concluded on September 20. We meet in the first three of the four terms of a year, and the plan for the coming first term is to begin on February 14, as hitherto on Tuesdays at 8pm at 23 Fallon St, Brunswick (Melway 29 F8). The seminar is led by Dr John Howes, who will go on presenting chapters for and material relevant to his proposed book *Plato: Questions, Insights, Errors*. Our main text is the *Republic* (members have the Penguin edition of 1974 or later), but we often turn to other dialogues and to writings of later philosophers.

For much of the first term we shall be considering Plato's extreme discontent with the politics (whether oligarchic or democratic) of the Athens he knew, his extraordinary proposals for an ideal city-state, and the kinds of education he wanted for its citizens and especially for those who would be its leaders. We shall also be asking what kinds of democracy and of education we should strive for, with attention to Plato, J.S.Mill, A.D.Lindsay and others. We shall be asking in particular where and how Plato went wrong in these matters and which of his principles remain valuable.

Expressions of interest in the seminar are invited from people who would like to attend or to be a corresponding member.