Aristotle

Philosophy 162b  
Palle Yourgrau, Rabb 332  

1) **Texts:**
   a) J. L. Ackrill, *A New Aristotle Reader*
   b) Handouts

2) **Requirements:**
   a) Several short papers (3-5 ppg.)
   b) **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every lecture, and to stay until the end of each lecture. Roll will be taken, and for every unexcused absence (or unexcused exit before the end of the lecture), after the first, the final grade will be lowered by half a grade. (Thus, a B turns into a B-.)

3) **Brief Description:**
   This is not a survey class but a rather a course devoted to a close examination of a small number of key texts of Aristotle's in an attempt to come to grips with the living thought of a great thinker whose ideas dominated much of Western philosophy and science for literally thousands of years, and who, even today, is highly relevant to the pursuits of contemporary philosophers. We will read *Categories* and *De Interpretatione*, parts of *Physics*, and then most of *De Anima (On the Soul)*, part of *Metaphysics*, and selections from the *Nicomachean Ethics*. We will address the question of the relationship of Aristotle's thought to Plato's, and we will examine Aristotle's notion of "being", as well as his views on the nature of time, change, physical substance, the mind, the infinite, and the divine, often comparing Aristotle’s conceptions to those of Plato, as well as Kant, and also contemporary philosophers.

4) **Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week)**
   Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

5) **Three Notes:**
   a) Unless given special permission, laptops, iphones, ipods, ipads, etc. are not allowed in the classroom. The only “I” permitted in the classroom is yourself.
   b) If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis and need to have special accommodations for this class, please see me immediately.
   c) Also please note that any case of dishonesty (cheating on a test, using materials, including from the internet, and failing to cite its origin) is a serious academic infraction and is subject to disciplinary action.