

Philosophy Class semestre 2 (2011)

• **The Development of Neoplatonic Philosophy**

**2 hours once a week
Thursday 12.15-13.45**

The Neo-Platonic School of Proclus
Renaissance print



Between the years 204-270 A.D., there lived the last of the great ancient philosophers - this was Plotinus, an Egyptian who lived in Rome, but taught in Greek. This philosopher created a system that was ostensibly a revision of Plato (hence called **Neoplatonism) but was really a combination of the philosophy of Plato with that of Aristotle - a philosophy of the absolute with that of Aristotelian empiricism. Plotinus' teaching shows how the physical world is a phenomenal reflection of our imagination, but that the imagination itself is but a reflection of our upper mind, which is itself a reflection of the Mind of the Universe, that is a reflection of the absolute principles of reality.**

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**The course is based on a reading of the 'Enneads' of Plotinus in Nathan Spiegel's Hebrew translation. We will also examine briefly the development of Neoplatonic thought from ancient times to modern.**

**Bibliography:** For Hebrew text used in class, see [Hebrew Menu](#)

**English readers may use the following:**

- *Plotinus the Enneads*, trans. S. MacKenna

- English translations of several of Plotinus' works can be downloaded from the web:  
[classics on the web](#)
- as well as those of Plotinus' pupil Porphyry  
[classics on the web](#)

**the following works are also useful:**

- L. P. Gerson, The Cambridge Companion to Plotinus
- J.M. Rist, Plotinus The Road to Reality
- R.T. Wallis, Neoplatonism

**Course requirements:** attendance, mid-term assignment presented in class (depending on numbers enrolled), end of term paper.

**Entrance Requirements** Previous participation in a course on Plato and Aristotle otherwise the pupil must prepare on their philosophies at the beginning of the course

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