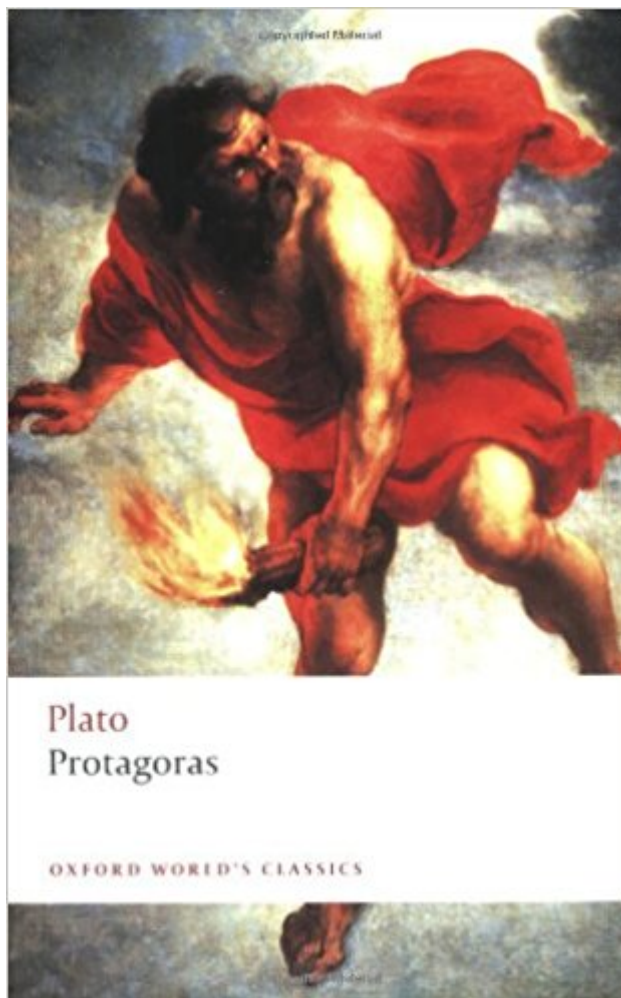


The book was found

# Protagoras (Oxford World's Classics)



## Synopsis

In the fifth century BC professional educators, the sophists, travelled the Greek world claiming to teach success in public and private life. In this dialogue Plato shows the pretensions of the leading sophist, Protagoras, challenged by the critical arguments of Socrates. From criticism of the educational aims and methods of the sophists the dialogue broadens out to consider the nature of the good life, and the role of pleasure and intellect in the context of that life. About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

Series: Oxford World's Classics

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (September 14, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199555656

ISBN-13: 978-0199555659

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.3 x 4.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #339,022 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #171 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Botany](#) #376 in [Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Greece](#) #498 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Botany](#)

## Customer Reviews

C.C.W. Taylor is Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

Taylor's translation of the Protagoras is careful and refreshing. He avoids conventional misrenderings, and always explains problem words in the notes. For example, 'sophrosune' is soundness of mind (not temperance) and the concept (difficult and changing even in Plato's writing) is discussed thoroughly in Taylor's introductory essay, which is clear and illuminating. Besides entries on text and translation, the commentary provides some of the literary and historical

information necessary for Greekless readers. The bulk of the notes is philosophical interpretation and criticism. On some issues substantial entries are required, and Taylor furnishes them; they are particularly well organized and easy to read.

If you want to read Plato, the Protagoras is a good place to start. It will give you a correct impression of what Plato's dialogues are like (both content and style), but is short enough not to feel overwhelming, as the Republic might feel if you don't know what you are getting into. The most common things Socrates does is ask people to define things, and show them that their definitions are inadequate. If one studies with a sculptor to become a sculptor, then one studies with a sophist to become a sophist (this is already a typical line of reasoning), but, "I should be surprised if you even know what a sophist is." The only big Platonic doctrine that does not appear in the Protagoras is the immortality of the soul and the theory of recollection (which I think of as a single doctrine). We see the high quality of Plato's writing early in this dialogue. When Socrates is telling Protagoras how experts are followed in shipbuilding but not in state policy or teaching excellence, he says that the sons of excellent fathers are not taught excellence by their fathers, but rather "they wander about on their own like sacred cattle looking for pasture, hoping to pick up excellence by chance." Protagoras and Socrates quote and interpret a lyric poem of Simonides, and this takes up about a sixth of the dialogue. Adam Beresford has given a reconstruction of this poem: "Nobody's Perfect: A New Text and Interpretation of Simonides PMG 542", *Classical Philology*, vol. 103, no. 3, 2008, 237-256. (PMG = *Poetae Melici Graeci*. See also number 476 of the Loeb Classical Library.) Previously, Beresford translated the Protagoras and Meno, and the next time I read the Protagoras I plan to read his translation. I also recommend W. K. C. Guthrie's translation of the Protagoras; Guthrie had earlier written a monograph "Orpheus and Greek Religion" and later wrote his six volume "History of Greek Philosophy".

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Protagoras (Oxford World's Classics) Protagoras and Meno (Penguin Classics) Protagoras (Hackett Classics) Stoic Six Pack 7 The Sophists: Memoirs of Socrates, Euthydemus, Stoic Self-control, Gorgias, Protagoras and Biographies (Illustrated) Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology (Oxford Handbooks) published by Oxford University Press, USA (2003) Poetry of the First World War: An Anthology (Oxford World's Classics) The Oxford Handbook of Music and World Christianities (Oxford Handbooks) Myths from Mesopotamia: Creation, the Flood, Gilgamesh, and Others (Oxford World's Classics) The Dhammapada: The Sayings of the Buddha (Oxford World's Classics) The Bodhicaryavatara (Oxford World's Classics) The Ecclesiastical History of the English

People; The Greater Chronicle; Bede's Letter to Egbert (Oxford World's Classics) The Poetic Edda (Oxford World's Classics) The Lives of the Artists (Oxford World's Classics) Leonardo da Vinci: Notebooks (Oxford World's Classics) Letters written in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark (Oxford World's Classics) Lives of the Caesars (Oxford World's Classics) Roman Lives: A Selection of Eight Roman Lives (Oxford World's Classics) Greek Lives (Oxford World's Classics) Confessions (Oxford World's Classics) The Confessions (Oxford World's Classics)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)