

24.200: Ancient Philosophy
Prof. Sally Haslanger

TEXT ANALYSIS PRESENTATION
For
Wednesday, October 6

[The unjust person who is believed to be just] rules the city because of his reputation for justice; he marries into any family he wishes; he gives his children in marriage to anyone he wishes; he has contracts and partnerships with anyone he wants; and besides benefiting himself in all these ways, he profits because he has no scruples about doing injustice. In any contest, public or private, he's the winner and outdoes his enemies. And by outdoing them, he becomes wealthy, benefiting his friends and harming his enemies. He makes adequate sacrifices to the gods and sets up magnificent offerings to them. He takes better care of the gods, therefore (and, indeed, of the human beings he's fond of), than a just person does. Hence it's likely that the gods, in turn, will take better care of him than of a just person. That's why they say, Socrates, that gods and humans provide a better life for unjust people than for just ones.

--Plato, *Republic*, 362b2-362c1