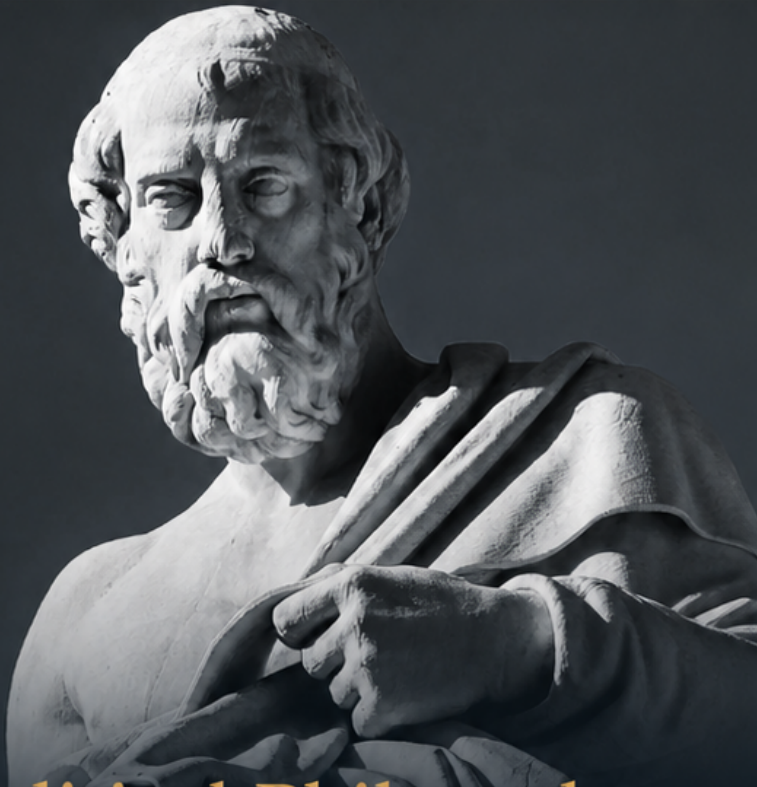


ERNEST FORTIN LECTURE SERIES

STUDENT SCHOLAR PRESENTATION



Political Philosophy as Metaphysics:

The Inner Structure of Plato's *Timaeus* and Its True Foundation

In Plato's *Timaeus*, Timaeus tells a likely story about the All so that he can provide a *nomos* (law/song) for the nature of man. For a story to be likely, it must respond to our observation of the All, and this observation is almost self-contradictory: We must admit that the world is both beautiful and ugly.

This talk traces how *Timaeus* accounts for this mixture and how human beings can pursue the beautiful and respond to the ugly. We will discover that *Timaeus* relies not only on his knowledge of nature and its necessity, but also on Socrates's account of the good revealed in the best regime. *Timaeus's* *nomos* of the All and human nature is thus a development of Socrates's political philosophy into metaphysics—suggesting that political philosophy supplies essential principles for metaphysics and directs its major trajectory.



THURSDAY,
MAY 7, 2026



5:00 PM – 6:30 PM



MCGUINN HALL 226A
BOSTON COLLEGE



Peini Feng

BOSTON COLLEGE '26



ABIGAIL ADAMS
— INSTITUTE —



The Ernest Fortin Lecture Series fosters serious inquiry into the enduring relationship between reason and revelation and the foundations of classical and medieval political philosophy.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Questions? Contact the
Ernest Fortin Society