

Zoom Book Club For "A Few Days In Athens"

Post by "Cassius" of January 21, 2022 at 7:04 AM

Kalosyni has made the proposal that we consider a chapter by chapter book review of "A Few Days In Athens" as a format for a special series of Epicurean Zoom meetings.

The proposal came up in the context of wanting to open up our online meetings to a larger audience, for example posting a link publicly on the EP Facebook group. Doing a chapter by chapter review of AFDIA would allow for a format in which we open the meeting with maybe a 15 minute recap of the events of a chapter (so as to provide continuity) and then go around the "table" letting each participant introduce themselves and say just a minute or two about that chapter. We could then use the balance of time for open discussion and then adjourn (probably after no more than an hour).

To deal with security issues we would tell people to use video only if they really want to do so, with the idea that video would generally be off (except for a shared screen of bullet points for the chapter).

If so, we would want a time that is workable for as many as possible. I have heard it suggested that maybe Sunday Night eastern time might provide a good time, but an early Sunday afternoon time might allow for European participation.

Would this be of interest? It would be fairly easy to do. Would it be worthwhile?

It would be particularly helpful if some number of our core people could take the lead in rotating the opening discussion of the events of each chapter.

Again, this would be easy, as each chapter is relatively short and direct and would require very little preparation.

I already have the chapter topic outline available here:
<http://afewdaysinathens2.epicureanfriends.com/ContentsAndFindingAid/>

Post by "Don" of January 21, 2022 at 8:51 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

posting a link publicly on the EP Facebook group.

Intriguing idea, but I would be careful and think twice about posting the zoom link publicly. I speak from experience! Back when COVID started, we hosted an online book club and our first one had a "zoom bomber" share their screen with ... how do I say this delicately ... extremely explicit video. We were VERY new to Zoom and it was disturbing and embarrassing. That's a risk with a public link.

However, that's not heard of as much anymore and zoom has put some safety protocols in place. There's never any guarantee though.

Are there any free registration platforms it there? That way, people would register and receive the zoom invitation in their email.

Just an anecdote and an idea.

Post by "Cassius" of January 21, 2022 at 9:18 AM

Yes I have heard of those things but I think that there are indeed now safeguards like the waiting room, etc. But those are good cautions.

Post by "Kalosyni" of January 21, 2022 at 12:32 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Doing a chapter by chapter review of AFDIA would allow for a format in which we open the meeting with maybe a 15 minute recap of the events of a chapter (so as to provide continuity) and then go around the "table" letting each participant introduce themselves and say just a minute or two about that chapter. We could then use the balance of time for open discussion and then adjourn (probably after no more than an hour).

I was actually thinking to read it as a group, meaning that we would take turns reading. Then we could have very specific questions to guide the discussion (prepared ahead of time).

Post by “Cassius” of January 21, 2022 at 12:45 PM

Well that is an interesting thought. Is it practical? What do others think about that?

Post by “smoothiekiwi” of January 21, 2022 at 2:20 PM

Well, at least I would love to participate in something like this! There're only 8 chapters, thus it will take only 2 months or so. Thats a fairly reasonable time spane. And I personally love AFDIA, and think that this book can help in understanding Epicureanism immensely. Obviously it isn't always correct in every instance, but I still think that it's very helpful in drawing people into the philosophy.

Post by “Cassius” of January 21, 2022 at 2:35 PM

Sixteen Chapters, right? 😊

Post by “smoothiekiwi” of January 21, 2022 at 3:21 PM

Oh, nevermind 😂

Post by “Kalosyni” of January 21, 2022 at 3:54 PM

I looked over the outline...

...and now I must apologize...I have not yet read much of this, and now realize that I must read it first, before I participate.

Post by “Don” of January 21, 2022 at 5:52 PM

[Quote from Kalosyni](#)

I looked over the outline...

...and now I must apologize...I have not yet read much of this, and now realize that I must read it first, before I participate.

That sounds like a good reason to go chapter by chapter in a "book discussion" group 😊 (btw I haven't read much of it either... It's on my list)

Post by “SimonC” of January 21, 2022 at 6:08 PM

I'd be up for a book club of AFDIA. I'd personally prefer reading it on my own time and discussing later. I'd be reading it for the first time.

Post by “Cassius” of January 21, 2022 at 6:14 PM

I think this is an idea that pretty definitely needs to go forward. I doubt I am up for starting this Sunday night, but I think it makes sense to target a Sunday afternoon or night either Jan 30 or Feb 6.

Just like when we first went through Lucretius, it actually adds a level of freshness if people have just read the material recently, and have not read the full book.

Post by “Cassius” of January 22, 2022 at 8:58 AM

Announcement Posted at Facebook.



Online "A Few Days In Athens" Book Review

Planning is underway for a Zoom online "Book Club" read-through, chapter by chapter, of Frances Wright's "A Few Days In Athens." This is a fictional introduction to Epicurus through the eyes of a formerly-Stoic young philosophy student. Our plan is to do one chapter per week, for about an hour, with a short presentation of each chapter at the start of the session, followed by a round-the-table discussion afterward. We will be screen-sharing to highlight the text so participants will not be visible by video unless they request to be.

Current plans are for a late-afternoon or early evening start time by Eastern USA time, but we recognize that causes problems for participation in Europe, and if you are there and prefer an earlier start time, let us know in the thread and we will see what we can do. We will probably start Sunday January 30 depending on level of interest, so let us know if you would like to participate. In order to prevent disruptions we will ask those who wish to attend to sign up and you will be sent the appropriate zoom link close to the start time. We will probably set up a "private" Facebook group for attendees to make that process easier.

Let us know your thoughts on this.

[A Few Days In Athens](https://www.facebook.com/epicureanfriends)

Post by "Scott" of January 22, 2022 at 12:40 PM

I am interested in attending.

Post by “Cassius” of January 22, 2022 at 2:28 PM

We have four already signed up at Facebook and I think this is the kind of activity that we will probably get good participation from the Facebook-oriented people.

Post by “Scott” of January 22, 2022 at 2:36 PM

"food participation"?

Post by “Cassius” of January 22, 2022 at 2:37 PM

Correcting now to "good" from " food"!

Post by “SimonC” of January 22, 2022 at 3:50 PM

I'll vote for a Europe-friendly time.

Post by “Cassius” of January 22, 2022 at 3:55 PM

I think that would mean sometime from about 12 pm eastern to be reasonable for the west coast USA to about 3 pm eastern so as not to be too late for Europe. Let's see what other responses come in.

Post by “Scott” of January 22, 2022 at 7:05 PM

That's 2-5pm start time for those of us in AZ. I should be able to make that.

Post by “Cassius” of January 25, 2022 at 7:03 AM

For those who use facebook this is the announcement page there:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/332030028928098>

Post by “Cassius” of January 26, 2022 at 5:01 AM

I just updated the Event Description to say that we will cover in session one:

- 1 - Who Was Frances Wright?
- 2 - The Introduction
- 3 - Chapter One