
Phil 220

Ancient Philosophy

Time & Place: TR 2.45-4.00, Lathrop 408

Instructor: Nate Bulthuis

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Office Hours: M, 4-5, or by appt.

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Course Description

This course offers an introduction to various philosophical problems raised and addressed in ancient Greek philosophy. The course covers a broad time period, from the pre-Socratics (roughly 6th c. BCE) through Socrates, Plato and Aristotle to the period known as Hellenistic philosophy (beginning after Aristotle). It assumes familiarity with the general substance and methods of analytic philosophy.

Readings

Eight textbooks will be required for this course:

- (FD) Grube, G.M.A. (tr.) (2002). Plato: Five Dialogues (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (S) Greenblatt, S. (2011). The Swerve: How the World Became Modern (New York: Norton)
- (A) Irwin, T, et al. (trs.) (1995). Aristotle: Selections (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (R) Grube, G.M.A., et al. (trs.) (1992). Plato: Republic (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (ER) Inwood, B., et al. (trs.) (1994). The Epicurus Reader (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (SR) Inwood, B., et al. (trs.) (2008). The Stoic Reader (Indianapolis: Hackett)
- (TTP) Sophocles; Fagles, R. (tr.) (2000) Three Theban Plays (New York: Penguin)
- (NT) Lucretius; Stallings, A.E. (tr.) (2007) The Nature of Things (New York: Penguin)

Two textbooks are not required but still highly recommended:

- (CT) Irwin, T. (1989). Classical Thought (New York: Oxford)
- (AP) Ackrill, J.L. (1981). Aristotle the Philosopher (New York: Oxford)

Website

This course utilizes a website: philosophy.natebulthuis.com/ancient. It is password-protected. The password for the site is **socrates**. Please consult the website for the schedule and access to select readings, for journal and essay prompts, and for any other material provided during the semester.

Grading

Quizzes: 15%

Paper 1: 20%

Paper 2: 25%

Midterm: 25%

Final: 25%

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory for all course lectures. Exceptions will only be made in the case of university-approved absences. Moreover, participation is expected in class discussion of the material. The best way to develop philosophical skills is to exercise one's philosophical capacities on a regular basis. Active discussion is perhaps the most important exercise in this regard.

Course Accommodations

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the SDS (420 Computing and Communications Center) or by going to sds.cornell.edu/index.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 607.254.4545 or visit the Student Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter

Academic Integrity

A word about academic dishonesty: Don't. It is immoral (it's a form of theft). It also doesn't pass the risk-reward test. It's incredibly easy for us to catch, and the penalties are severe – up to and including expulsion from the university.

If you aren't sure what constitutes academic dishonesty, see <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>, or ask a professor and/or instructor.

Date	Notes	Reading	Topics
Week 1 1.23 1.24 1.26		<i>CT: ch. 1</i> TTP: Antigone [FD: Apology]	<i>Classical Athens</i> What is Ancient Philosophy? Nature and Convention Socrates's Disavowal of Knowledge
Week 2 1.31 2.2		<i>CT: ch. 5</i> FD: Euthyphro FD: Crito	<i>Socrates and Socratic Inquiry</i> Socratic Elenchus Voluntarism and Conventionalism
Week 3 2.7 2.9		<i>CT: ch. 6, sec. i-vi</i> FD: Meno [7], [10]	<i>Socrates's Methods Reconsidered</i> Inquiry, Knowledge and Recollection Introduction of Forms
Week 4 2.14 2.16		<i>CT: ch. 6, sec. vii-x</i> FD: Phaedo R: Book 1	<i>The Soul and Justice</i> The Immortality of the Soul Thucydides's 'Melian Dialogue'
Week 5 2.21 2.23		<i>CT: ch. 6, sec. xi-xiv</i> R: Book 2 R: Book 4	<i>The Immoralist Challenge Platonic Psychology</i> <i>videri quam esse: Why morality's for losers</i> Platonic Psychology
Week 6 2.28 3.2		<i>CT: ch. 6, sec. xv-xx</i> R: Books 5-10 [14: sel.]	<i>Justice Defended</i> The Images of the Sun, the Line, the Cave Class Debate: The Rationality of Morality
Week 7 3.7 3.9	Midterm	<i>AP: chs. 1-2</i> A: Phys., I-II; Metaph., V.8	<i>Aristotle on Natural Inquiry and Explanation</i> Aristotle's Natural Philosophy
Week 8 3.14 3.16		A: De Anima, I-II A: N. Ethics, I	<i>Aristotle on the Soul and Ethics</i> The Soul as Unmoved Mover Aristotle on Human Nature
Week 9 3.21 3.23			<i>Hedonism [Spring Break]</i>
Week 10 3.28 3.30		<i>AP: ch. 10</i> A: N. Ethics, I-IV (sel.) A: N. Ethics, X; Politics (sel.)	<i>Aristotle's Ethics and Politics</i> Virtues of Character Possible World Semantics
Week 11 4.4 4.6		<i>CT: ch. 7, vii-xi</i> ER: 3-19, 32-40, 47-58 ER: 28-31, 36-40, 58-64	<i>Epicureanism</i> Epicurean Atomism Epicurean Ethics and Incompatibilism
Week 12 4.11 4.13		<i>CT: ch. 8, i-iv</i> S NT (sel.)	<i>Lucretius and the Modern Era</i> Class Discussion: Ancient Phil. and Now Lucretius
Week 13 4.18 4.20		<i>CT: ch. 8, v-vii</i> SR: 11-14, 39-43, 51-9, 101-12 SR: 113-124, 151-164	<i>Foundations of Stoic Theory</i> Stoic Cosmology and Epistemology Stoic Moral Psychology
Week 14 4.25 4.27		<i>CT: ch. 8, viii-x</i> SR: 113-124, 151-164 SR: 113-124, 151-164,	<i>Stoic Ethics</i> The Stoics on Emotion Stoic Ethics and Compatibilism
Week 15 5.2 5.4		SR: 185-205; Cicero (sel.)	<i>Cicero and the Later Stoics</i> The Later Stoics Review Day