

Faculty of Arts and Social Science
Huron University College
Philosophy 2200F (550): Ancient Philosophy
Course Outline Fall 2018



Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Dr. Julie Ponesse

Office: Benson 3

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10-12 p.m.

Email: jponesse@alumni.uwo.ca

Class times: T 10:30-11:30 a.m.

TH 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Class location: HC-V210

Course content: OWLSakai

Course Description and Learning Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to acquaint students with the main thinkers, ideas, and developments in Ancient Greek philosophy, and to understand these developments in their historical contexts. The course also aims to instill an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the Ancient Greek philosophical tradition, and to help students develop the ability to read, understand, and analyze the texts inherited from this tradition so as to reflect on the ideas they offer us.

This course will introduce students to a broad selection of writings of the greatest thinkers of Classical antiquity (585 BC–529 AD)—Thales, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus and others. We will examine their views about knowledge, the forms, the soul, death, justice, virtue, happiness and the human good, as well as the nature of the cosmos, atomism, and the possibility of change and motion. We will trace the origins of some of the key philosophical themes that emerged during the Presocratic period, and proceed to examine their development and transformation at the hands of Plato and Aristotle. We will then see how philosophy changed (and stayed the same) in the hands of the Epicureans and the Stoics during the Hellenistic period.

This course aims to help students to understand and evaluate the arguments of these philosophers, and to connect them with questions raised by thinkers in other historical periods including our own. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify and explain how these ancient thinkers planted the seeds for many of our contemporary advancements in science, mathematics, aesthetics, psychology, politics and ethics. Students will also be able to identify key cultural and historical events which influenced the philosophy of the period.

Class Methods

The course will be delivered by lecture with a substantial amount of time left for student contribution. Students are expected to attend, and to actively participate, in both lectures and their tutorial sessions. *Students who actively participate in class may receive a bonus of up to 5% added to their final grade.*

Course Text (required)

S. M. Cohen, P. Curd, and C.D.C. Reeve, eds. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: from Thales to Aristotle*, 4th ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2011.

I strongly encourage you to purchase this particular edition of the text but, if you choose to use other sources for the ancient material, be sure that the source has line numbers (i.e. the numbers in the margins) in addition to page numbers, otherwise it will be very difficult to follow along.

(Available at the UWO Bookstore [\$77.15] and on-line.)

Method of Evaluation

1. Two in-class tests - 15% each (total: 30%)
2. One essay assignment - 35%
4. Final exam - 35%, to be scheduled at a time and place during the final exam period, as determined by the registrar

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING LIST

(subject to change given sufficient prior notice)

Readings are indicated according to their page numbers in the course text (abbreviated CCR). For the Plato readings, “Stephanus numbers” (numbers in the margins of the Plato readings) are also given (e.g. 596a). For the Aristotle readings, “Bekker numbers”

(numbers in the margins of the Aristotle readings) are also given (e.g. 1094a1). These help you to find specific pages in the text and will be explained in class.

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| | SECTION I: PRESOCRATICS & THE BIRTH OF PHILOSOPHY |
| Class #1 (Sept. 6) | Introduction: From Mythology to Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> (CCR 2; provided in class) |
| Class #2 (Sept. 11) | The Presocratics 1: Material Monism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Milesians (CCR 10-17) |
| Class #3 (Sept. 13) | The Presocratics 2: Fluxism and Extreme Monism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heraclitus (CCR 29-35) • Parmenides (CCR 40-44) & Zeno (CCR 47-51) |
| Class #4 (Sept. 18) | The Presocratics 3: Pluralism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empedocles (CCR 52-53, 59-64, 69-71) & Anaxagoras (75-80) |
| (Sept. 20) | The Presocratics 5: Atomism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomism: Democritus (CCR 81-89) |
| Class #5 (Sept. 25) | Presocratics Summary |
| Class #6 (Sept. 27) | Test #1: The Presocratics |
| | SECTION II: SOCRATES & THE SOCRATIC PROBLEM |
| Oct. 8 - 12 | <i>Fall reading week: No class</i> |
| Class #7 (Oct. 16) | The Socratic Problem Socrates' trial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Apology</i> 17a-35d (CCR 153-172) |

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| Class #8 (Oct. 18) | The Socratic Problem Socrates' conviction and attitude towards death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Apology</i> 35e-42a (CCR 172-178) & <i>Phaedo</i> 63c-68d; 114d-118a (CCR 272-277, 316-319) • <i>Incremental Essay Assignment distributed</i> |
| | SECTION III: PLATO |
| Class #9 (Oct. 23) | Plato's Psychology: Forms, Souls, and Virtue Immortality and the Forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> 57a-61c; 72a-82e (CCR 267-270, 280-290) |
| Class #10 (Oct. 25) | Plato's Epistemology: Recollection & Philosophical Inquiry Meno's Paradox <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Meno</i> (selections from CCR 241-255) |
| Class #11 (Oct. 30) | Justice: How is the soul like a city? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Republic</i> 432e-445e (CCR 469-482) |
| Class #13 (Nov. 1) | Plato's Critique of the Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Republic</i> X 595a-608b (CCR 616-629) |
| Class #14 (Nov. 6) | Plato's View of Love, Beauty, and the Form of the Good <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Symposium</i> 189a-194e; 198a-219d (CCR 335-337, 347-357) |
| Class #15 (Nov. 8) | Test #2: Socrates and Plato |
| | SECTION IV: ARISTOTLE |
| Class #16 (Nov. 13) | Aristotle's Ethics: The Highest Good and the Human Function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> I. 1-8 (CCR 870-880) |
| Class #17 (Nov. 15) | Aristotle's Ethics: Doctrine of the Mean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> II.1-2; II.6 (CCR 883-885, 888-890) |
| Class #18 (Nov. 20) | Aristotle's Natural Philosophy: The Four Causes and teleology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> II.1-3, 7-9 (CCR 740-747, 753-754) |

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| Class #19 (Nov. 22) | Aristotle's Politics The depiction of women as failed/mutilated men <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read <i>Politics</i> I.12-13; <i>Generation of Animals</i> IV.1-2 (Owl) |
| Class #20 (Nov. 27) | Aristotle's Politics Why women and natural slaves are excluded from the life of happiness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read <i>Politics</i> I.1-7 and I.13 (Owl) |
| Class #21 (Nov. 29) | Aristotle's Psychology: Lives & Souls Aristotle's definition of the soul and the functions of life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read Aristotle, <i>On the Soul</i> I.1, II.1-4 (CCR 847-850, 851-859) |
| Class #22 (Dec. 4) | Aristotle's Psychology: Lives & Souls cont.'d <i>Final Essay Due by Monday, December 10 at midnight (by electronic submission to Owl)</i> |
| Class #23 (Dec. 6) | Exam preparation session <i>(N.B. Review notes will not be given.)</i> |

Late penalty policy:

Late papers will be subject to a 5% penalty on the first day that it is late, and a further 1% penalty for each subsequent day it is late (including each day of the weekend) until the last day of the semester, at which point a grade of 0 will be automatically entered (following Senate guidelines set out on p. 117 of the UWO 2015-16 Academic Calendar).

For medical accommodation please see the relevant policy in the appendix.



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.