

Fa14 PHIL-3100-001

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Philosophy 3100: Ancient Philosophy

Fall, 2014

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Office Hours: After class or by appointment (send an email to the address above) in Eccles Conference Center 108 J

A survey of Greek philosophy from the pre-Socratics through the Hellenistic era, with special emphasis on Plato. The overarching goal of this class is to encourage students to read these foundational texts, mark them, learn and inwardly digest them, so that they will be able to give an intelligent account of the origins of western philosophy. This should prepare students who have been diligent about this class and desire to do further work in philosophy to be able to see how the work of all subsequent philosophers is underpinned by this material, deepening their understanding of any other philosopher they study. More generally, the class will help develop, in the student who pursues it carefully, patience to confront difficult and unfamiliar material, and to work through it until one has come to grasp it and see how it fits into its larger context.

Assessment

Reading quizzes 30%

Mid-term examinations 40%

(There will be two mid-terms: one on the material through Plato, *Republic* I and another on the whole of the *Republic*)

Final examination 30%

The reading quizzes will be posted on Canvas and will help ensure that you have prepared the material before coming to class. The first mid-term and the final will be take-home exams, open book and open note, consisting of essay questions. They will be graded on accuracy of grasp of the material and depth of comprehension, as well as adequacy of expression, i.e., they must be grammatically sound.

N.B.: I cannot discuss grades over email. All discussion of grades must occur in person.

Text (available in the Bookstore)

Cohen, et al., eds., *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy From Thales to Aristotle*. 4th edition. Hackett. 2011.

Schedule of assignments

This schedule is somewhat provisional; the work we do at any particular class meeting may change depending on the interests of members of the class. I assume that all students are attending every class meeting, so changes may be made in class that are not recorded here.

Week 1

August 26: Introduction, the Milesians

August 28: Xenophanes

Week 2

September 2: Heraclitus

September 4: Parmenides

Week 3

September 9: The Pluralists: Empedocles and Anaxagoras

September 11: The Derveni Papyrus

Week 4

September 16: The Atomists: Leucippus and Democritus

September 18: The Sophists

Week 5

September 23: Plato, *Apology*

September 25: *Ap.*, cont'd

Week 6

September 30: Plato, *Republic I*

October 2: *Rep.* II

Week 7

October 7: *Rep.* III

October 9: *Rep.* IV

October 10: Mid-term exams on all material through Plato, *Republic I* due

Week 8

October 14: *Rep.* V

Week 9

October 21: *Rep.* VI

October 23: *Rep.* VII

Week 10

October 28: *Rep.* VIII-IX

October 30: *Rep.* X

Week 11

November 4: Aristotle, *Physics* I-II

November 6: *Phys.* III-VIII

November 8: Mid-term exams on Plato's *Republic* due

Week 12

November 11: Aristotle, *Metaphysics* I-VII

November 13: *Meta.* VIII-XII

Week 13

November 18: Aristotle, *De Anima*

November 20: Stoicism

Week 14

November 25: Epicureanism

Week 15

December 2: Scepticism

December 4: Catch up, conclusion

Week 16

Final examination due Friday, December 12