

## **Philosophy 4110: Ancient Greek Philosophy Provisional Syllabus—Fall 2016**

Class Time and Location: M, W, F 11:50 AM - 12:40 PM, WBB 206

Instructor: Eric Hutton

Office: CTIHB 425

Phone: 801-581-7320

Course website: Canvas

Office Hours: Wed 3:00-4:00pm or by appointment

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**Course Description:** Studying Greek philosophy is helpful not only for learning about the history of Western thought, but it also provides a good introduction to philosophy generally. For the Greeks investigated most of the major areas of philosophical inquiry, including ethics, metaphysics, and epistemology, and many of the questions that they addressed are still being debated today. This course will thus cover a broad spectrum of issues as we trace the development of Greek philosophy from the pre-Socratics through the Hellenistic thinkers. Readings will consist entirely of primary sources in translation. No previous knowledge of classical Greek or of Greek history is required. See below for details of course assignments.

**Pre-requisite:** None, but prior courses in philosophy are highly recommended.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To improve students' skills in critical reading, writing, and thinking through engagement with philosophical texts and through focused writing exercises. In particular, students will practice:
  - A) Writing concisely
  - B) Reconstructing arguments and noting premises (assumptions) and conclusions
  - C) Constructing interpretations of passages
  - D) Constructing and responding to evaluative arguments
  
2. To give students familiarity with the basic figures and themes of ancient Greek philosophy.

### **Required Texts:**

- 1) Cooper, John, ed. *Plato, Complete Works*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1997.
- 2) McKeon, Richard, ed. *Introduction to Aristotle*. New York, NY.: Modern Library, 1992.
- 3) Inwood, Brad and Gerson, L.P. *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings*, 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1988. (Hereafter, listed as IG)
- 4) Epictetus. *The Handbook*, translated by Nicholas P. White. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 1983.

## Recommended Texts:

- 1) Harvey, Michael. *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2003.

All other readings will be on reserve (and when possible, e-reserve) at Marriott Library

(Note: The instructor will strive to follow diligently the schedule and plan set out in this syllabus, but this syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor at any time, and students will be given reasonable prior notice of any modifications. If/when such modifications are made, a new version of the syllabus will be posted on the course website and will be authoritative over all previous versions of the syllabus.)

### Schedule of Topics and Readings:

#### Week 1: Introduction & Pre-Socratics

8/22 (Mon): Introduction

8/24 (Wed): Pre-Socratics I: selections from Heraclitus (on e-reserve)

8/26 (Fri): Pre-Socratics II: selections from Parmenides (on e-reserve)

#### Week 2: Socrates

8/29 (Mon): Socratic Psychology: Plato, *Apology* (all); *Protagoras*, 351B-358E

8/30 (Tue): **Argument Outline #1 Due at 9:00pm.**

8/31 (Wed): Socratic Views of Virtue: Plato, *Laches* (all)

9/2 (Fri): Discussion

#### Week 3: Socrates/Plato

9/5 (Mon): **Labor Day: No Class**

9/6 (Tue): **Argument Outline #2 Due at 9:00pm.**

9/7 (Wed): The Question of Knowledge I: Plato, *Theaetetus* (all, but esp. 142A-183C)

9/9 (Fri): The Question of Knowledge II: Plato, *Theaetetus* (all, but esp. 183D-210D)

#### Week 4: Plato

9/12 (Mon): Platonic Metaphysics: Plato, *Phaedo* (all, but esp. 72E-77B, 96A-107A)

9/13 (Tue): **Argument Outline #3 Due at 9:00pm.**

9/14 (Wed): The Doctrine of Recollection: Plato, *Phaedo* (all, but esp. 72E-77B), *Meno*  
81A-86C

9/16 (Fri): Discussion

#### Week 5: Plato

9/19 (Mon): The Question of Justice: Plato, *Republic*, Bk. I-III (concentrate on 354B1-376E1; 412B2-417B)

9/20 (Tue): **Argument Outline #4 Due at 9:00pm.**

9/21 (Wed): Platonic Psychology: Plato, *Republic*, Bk. IV; Bk. IX, 588B-592B

9/23 (Fri): Discussion

Week 6: Plato

9/26 (Mon): Philosophers and Non-philosophers: *Republic*, Bk. V

9/28 (Wed): Interlude: Plato, *Symposium* (all)

9/30 (Fri): Discussion

Week 7: Plato

10/3 (Mon): Sun, Line, and Cave: Plato, *Republic*, Bk. VI-VII (esp. 504B-541B)

10/5 (Wed): Problems for the Forms in Late Plato: Plato, *Parmenides* 126A-135D

10/7 (Fri): Discussion

Week 8: Fall Break

10/10 – 10/14: **Fall Break—No Class**

Week 9: Aristotle

10/17 (Mon): Aristotelian Science: Aristotle, *Physics* II

10/19 (Wed): Aristotelian Metaphysics: Aristotle, *Metaphysics* XII.1-5

10/20 (Thu): **Paper #1 Due at 5:00pm.**

10/21 (Fri): Discussion

Week 10: Aristotle

10/24 (Mon): Aristotelian Psychology: Aristotle, *De Anima* II (esp. 1-5)

10/25 (Tue): **Optional Argument Outline #5 Due at 9:00pm.**

10/26 (Wed): Aristotle on Happiness: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I

10/28 (Fri): Aristotle on Happiness (continued): Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I

Week 11: Aristotle

10/31 (Mon): Aristotelian Moral Virtue: *Nicomachean Ethics* II

11/2 (Wed): Aristotelian Moral Virtue (continued): *Nicomachean Ethics* II; III.5 (1115a3) – III.12

11/4 (Fri): Discussion

Week 12: Aristotle

11/7 (Mon): Aristotelian Intellectual Virtue: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* VI

11/8 (Tue): Please go vote in the election! **Optional Argument Outline #6 Due at 9:00pm.**

11/9 (Wed): Happiness Revisited: *Nicomachean Ethics* X.4-9, *Metaphysics* XII.6-10

11/10 (Thu): **Optional Rewrite of Paper #1 Due at 5:00pm.**

11/11 (Fri): Discussion

#### Week 13: Epicureanism

11/14 (Mon): Ethics: IG, I-4 – I-6, I-8 – I-13, I-19 – I-26, I-35 – I-64, I-115 – I-159

11/15 (Tue): **Optional Argument Outline #7 Due at 9:00pm.**

11/16 (Wed): Epicurean Ethics II: selections from Lucretius (on e-reserve)

11/17 (Thu): **Paper #2 Due at 5:00pm.**

11/18 (Fri): Discussion

#### Week 14: Stoicism

11/21 (Mon): Stoic Physics: IG, II-1, II-20 – II-22, II-76 – II-93

11/23 (Wed): Stoic Ethics: Epictetus, *The Handbook*; IG, II-94 (sec. 84-89, 101-117, 125-127), II-97 – II-100, II-102 – II-103, II-107, II-109, II-115 – II-116, II-119 – II-120

11/25 (Fri): **Thanksgiving Break. No class.**

#### Week 15: Skepticism

11/28 (Mon): Discussion

11/30 (Wed): The Aims of Skepticism: IG, III-22, III-26 – III-34

12/2 (Fri): The Modes of Skepticism: IG, III-35 – III-37, III-48 – III-51

#### Week 16: Conclusion

12/5 (Mon): Discussion

12/7 (Wed): Conclusion & Review

12/13 (Tue): **Paper #3 Due at 5:00pm**

#### Course Requirements:

- A) Students are expected to finish each assigned reading before the class meeting on that assignment. Students are also expected to bring the assigned reading to class with them.
- B) Argument Outlines: Students are required to submit four argument outlines for passages from the reading that will be assigned by the instructor. An additional three outline assignments will be optional, and the highest four submissions will counted toward the course grade. **No late assignments will be accepted.** The dates on which outlines are to be submitted are marked on the schedule above.

- C) Participation: students are expected to participate in discussion in class. For in-class discussion, raising thoughtful questions, responding insightfully to remarks by other students, answering questions from the instructor, and reading aloud (when asked by the instructor) will all count towards fulfilling this requirement. Students who are absent from class are still responsible for knowing what was said both during lecture *and* discussion, so if you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate.
- D) Papers: three papers of 1200-1800 words, due by 5 p.m. on the days designated above. Topics will be handed out in advance. Further details on manner of submission, penalties for lateness, extensions, drafts, etc. will be given with paper topics.

#### Grading:

Participation in discussions, 20%; Argument outlines, 20%; Papers, 20% each.

(The instructor reserves the right to change this weighting as necessary in order to fulfill the educational mission of the course.)

The grading scale to be used in this course severely penalizes failure to submit an assignment, so students who utterly fail to submit assignments will jeopardize their overall course grade to a much greater extent than students who submit assignments that are of poor quality.

Note: All assignments submitted for a grade in this course must be the student's own work. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct may result in a failing grade for the entire course, and the case may be transferred to the University's Academic Misconduct Committee for further judgment. According to the Student code, "Plagiarism' means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression" (<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>). If you have further questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct, ask the instructor and consult the University Code.

#### **College of Humanities Academic Misconduct Policy:**

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and inappropriately collaborating. Definitions can be found in the Student Code at <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>.

If you are suspected of academic misconduct, the process proceeds according to the rules found in the Student Code, University Policy 6-400(V). According to that policy, after meeting with you, the instructor must determine whether academic misconduct has, in fact, occurred.

—If s/he determines that no academic misconduct has occurred, s/he will document that you are not responsible for any academic misconduct.

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred and this is the **first instance** in which you have been alleged to have committed academic misconduct, s/he will take into account whether the act was intentional or a result of negligence in determining the appropriate sanction, which can be up to failing the course. The sanction will be noted in the resolution of the case and your right of appeal is as specified in Policy 6-400(V).

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred, and you have previously been sanctioned for an act of academic misconduct, and the prior instance of misconduct resulted in a sanction less than failing the course, the department will follow the process to fail you for the course. If the prior sanction was failure of the course, your new act of misconduct will result in failure of the course and the department will also follow the process to seek your dismissal from the program and the University.

**ADA Statement:**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

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