

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011-2012

Philosophy 2200F Ancient Philosophy
Previously Philosophy 210F

Fall Term 2011

Tu 1:30-2:30; Th 1:30-3:30
TC343

Instructor: Prof. K. M. Nielsen

Office: StH4145

Office Hours: Tu 2:30-3:30 and Th 3:30-4:30

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This course offers an introduction to the first developments of Western philosophy in ancient Greece and Rome. We will read Plato, the pre-Socratics, Aristotle and the Hellenistic schools (Stoics, Epicureans and Skeptics) in order to understand their arguments.

Questions include: What are the basic entities in the universe: atoms, forms, or substances? What role do these basic entities play in explaining why the universe is the way it is? Is change conceptually possible, or is the very idea of change incoherent? If everything that happens is determined by prior causes, how can we be held responsible for our actions? Is moral knowledge possible, and if so, what is moral knowledge about? What kind of life is the happiest? Does it ever pay to be unjust? Is the soul immortal, or does it perish with the body?

Our primary objective will be to examine the arguments of the philosophers critically, with a view to assessing their merits. While ancient philosophers set the stage for later developments in the history of philosophy, they did so by presenting arguments that are worthy of consideration in their own right. We will practice reading a variety of types of texts (philosophical dialogues, poems, letters and treatises) in order better to understand these arguments.

Readings will include excerpts from Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Physics*, *On the Soul* and *Nicomachean Ethics*.

TEXTS

J. Barnes (ed.), *Early Greek Philosophy*, 2nd revised ed. (London: Penguin, 2001)

G. M. A. Grube (ed.) revised by J. M. Cooper, *Plato: Five Dialogues*, 2nd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002)

G. M. A. Grube (ed.) revised by C. D. C. Reeve, *Plato: Republic*, 2nd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992)

T. H. Irwin & G. Fine (eds.), *Aristotle: Introductory Readings* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1996)

B. Inwood & L. Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy*, 2nd ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997)

Optional:

C. Shields, *Aristotle* (New York: Routledge, 2007)

If you would like further suggestions for readings, please consult with the instructor.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm:

The midterm will take place in class on Thursday Oct 6th. You will have two hours to respond to three out of four assigned questions. Answers will be graded according to their relevance, accuracy, breadth and depth. Although the exam is essay format, I don't expect your answers to conform to the formal style of an essay. There is no need to write an introduction or a summary at the end – just cut to the chase and answer the questions. The exam will cover all the material we have discussed in lectures up to the day of the mid-term.

Papers:

Two papers, each totaling 4-5 pages (Times New Roman, 12 point, double spaced, standard margins). The first paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday October 20th. The second paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday November 17th. All papers should be submitted in paper copy (no e-mail submissions except with the prior permission of the instructor).

The Department of Philosophy requires that all papers be submitted to Turnitin.com. This secures your copyright to the paper, and helps prevent plagiarism. No paper will be returned until it has been submitted to Turnitin.com. The class name for turnitin is “2200F Ancient Philosophy”, our class number is 4083124, our password “elenchus”.

Don't forget to include a complete bibliography listing *all sources* you consulted, whether electronic or non-electronic, while writing your paper.

All references to specific passages in Plato's dialogues should be made using the “Stephanus numbers” you will find in the margins of Cooper's edition. These numbers (e.g. “*Apology* 18b5”, “*Republic* 443c2”) refer to the page, section, and line of Henri Estienne's 1578 Paris edition of Plato's complete works. (“Stephanus” is Latin for “Estienne”). Stephanus numbers uniquely identify individual passages in Plato's work, unlike page numbers in later editions. Stephanus numbers should be given in parentheses in the body of the main text. If you give Stephanus-numbers in footnotes, your paper will look like a cashier receipt.

All references to specific passages in Aristotle's works should be made using the “Bekker numbers” you will find in the margins of Irwin & Fine's volume. These numbers (e.g. “*Nicomachean Ethics* 1113b17-27”) uniquely identify a passage in Aristotle's corpus even without any mention of the name of the work in which it appears. In this respect, they differ from Stephanus numbers. Bekker numbers are based on the page numbers used in Immanuel Bekker's 19th-century edition of the *Corpus Aristotelicum* for the Prussian Academy of Sciences (“a” refers to text that appeared in the left-hand column of that edition, “b” to text that appeared in the right-hand column). Add such references in parentheses in the main body of the text rather than in footnotes.

You are invited to meet with the instructor to discuss your paper during office hours – feel free to bring in a draft. The instructor will not provide written comments on drafts, but she is happy to comment on individual passages during office hours. All questions regarding papers should reach the instructor no later than two workdays before the deadline. Paper assignments will be distributed in class at least two weeks in advance of the deadline. If you hand in your paper late, you will be penalized 3 points per day, including weekends (maximum 20pts). If you cannot submit the paper directly to the instructor, please use the drop box on the first floor of the entrance to the Philosophy Department (Stevenson Hall). If you do not hand in all your papers by the last day of classes (December 7th) you will, unfortunately, fail the course.

Final Exam

The final examination will take place during the exam period. You will have three hours to respond to three out of four essay questions. Just like on the midterm, answers will be graded according to their relevance, accuracy, breadth and depth. Although the exam is essay format, I don't expect your answers to conform to the formal style of an essay. There's no need to write an introduction or a summary at the end – just cut to the chase and answer the questions.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Midterm 20% (In class, October 6th)

First paper: 25% (Due October 20th)

Second paper: 25% (Due November 17th)

Final exam: 30% (TBA)

Where a student's final grade is borderline, class participation will determine whether she is given the benefit of the doubt.

Be aware that senate regulations prohibit individual instructors from granting extensions on written assignments or arranging special accommodations on tests. All such requests, with the appropriate documentation, should be directed to your academic counselor and the Undergraduate Counselor in the Department of Philosophy, Prof. Christopher Viger.

Contacting the Instructor

Students who are absent from class are responsible for obtaining notes from one of their peers. The instructor does not distribute lecture notes. While you are encouraged to make use of the instructor's office hours to discuss the course material and raise any questions that arise in connection with the course, the instructor is also prepared to respond to reasonable requests and inquiries submitted by email. The instructor does not respond to questions that can be answered by reading the course outline. Under normal circumstances, you should expect to receive an answer within 48 hours (weekends and public holidays excepted).

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Lecture Plan with Reading Assignments
Phil 2200F (002) Winter 2010
Prof. K. M. Nielsen

Thursday Sept 8: Introduction; Plato's *Apology*

Tuesday Sept 10: Plato's *Apology* continued

Reading assignment: *Apology*

Thursday Sept 15: Plato's *Crito* and *Euthyphro*

Reading assignment: *Crito* and *Euthyphro*

Tuesday Sept 20: Plato's *Meno*

Reading assignment: *Meno* 70a-79e

Thursday Sept 22: Plato's *Meno* continued

Reading assignment: *Meno* 80a-100b

Tuesday Sept 27: Plato's *Phaedo*

Reading assignment: *Phaedo* 57a-84b

Thursday Sept 29: Plato's *Phaedo* continued

Reading assignment: *Phaedo* 95b-107b

Tuesday Oct 4: Introduction to the Presocratics: Thales and Heraclitus

Reading assignment:

Aristotle's *Metaphysics* I, 3-4.

Barnes (ed.), *Early Greek Philosophy*, Thales and Heraclitus

Thursday Oct 6: IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Tuesday Oct 11: Presocratics continued: Parmenides

Reading assignment; Barnes (ed.), *Early Greek Philosophy*, Parmenides

Thursday Oct 13: Presocratics continued: Atomism: Leucippus and Democritus

Reading assignment; Barnes (ed.), *Early Greek Philosophy*, Leucippus and Democritus (excluding the final section on Democritus' moral philosophy).

Tuesday Oct 18: Plato's *Republic*

Reading assignment: *Republic* I, II

Thursday Oct 20: Plato's *Republic*; FIRST PAPER DUE

Reading assignment, *Republic* IV, V

Tuesday Oct 25: Plato's *Republic*

Reading assignment: *Republic* VI-VII

Thursday Oct 27: Aristotle's *Categories*

Reading assignment: *Categories* 1-5.

Tuesday Nov 1: Aristotle's *Physics*

Reading assignment: *Physics* I, 1, 7-8

Thursday Nov 3: Aristotle's *Physics continued*,

Reading Assignment: *Physics* II, 1-3, 7-9

Tuesday Nov 8: Aristotle's *De Anima*

Reading assignment: *De Anima* I, 1; II, 1-6, 11, 12; III, 3, 4-5; 10-11

Thursday Nov 10: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Reading assignment: *Nicomachean Ethics*, I, 1-5, 7-8, 13

Tuesday Nov 15: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

Reading assignment: *Nicomachean Ethics* II, 1-7; X, 6-9

Thursday Nov 17: Epicurus; SECOND PAPER DUE

Reading assignment: Inwood and Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy*, Diogenes Laertius, *The Life of Epicurus* 10.1-16; Epicurus (in Diogenes Laertius) *Letter to Herodotus* and *Letter to Menoecus*; The Testimony of Cicero: *On Goals* 1.18-20, 1.29-33, 1.37-38; *On Fate* 18-48; The Testimony of Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*, 4.469-499; 2.216-293.

Tuesday Nov 22: Epicureanism continued; Stoicism

Reading assignment: Inwood and Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy*, Cicero, *On Fate* 28-33 and 39-44; Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights* 7.2

Thursday Nov 24: Stoicism continued, Skepticism

Reading assignment: Inwood and Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy*, Sextus Empiricus, PH ("Outlines of Pyrrhonism") 1.1-34, 1.35-163 (The Ten Modes of Aenesidemus); M ("Adversus Mathematicos") 8.479-481

Tuesday Nov 29: Skepticism

Reading assignment: Inwood and Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy*, Sextus Empiricus PH ("Outlines of Pyrrhonism") 1.164-177 (The Five Modes of Agrippa).

Thursday Dec 1: Open

Tuesday Dec 6: Review Session.