

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Philosophy 2200F (001): Ancient Philosophy
Course Outline Intersession 2016



Instructor: Dr. Julie Ponesse
Office: Stevenson Hall, Room 3137
Office hours: Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m
Email: jponesse@alumni.uwo.ca

Class times: T & TH, 12:30-3 p.m.
Room: P&AB 148
Course content: OWLSakai

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.

Our primary emphasis throughout the course will be on understanding and evaluating the arguments of these philosophers, and on connecting them with questions raised by thinkers in other historical periods including our own. A central focus of the course will be aiming to understand how these ancient thinkers planted the seeds for many of our contemporary advancements in science, mathematics, aesthetics, psychology, politics and ethics. We will focus on cultural and historical information to the extent that doing so serves that primary task.

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.

(Available at the UWO Bookstore and on-line.)

Requirements

1. Participation - 10%
2. Three short (900 word) essays - 20% each for a total of 60%
3. Final exam - 30%, to be scheduled at a time and place determined by the registrar during the Intersession 2016 period

N.B. Due dates for the papers will be published in the reading list which will be made available to students upon registration.

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).

Students are directed to view the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>).

Policy on accommodation for medical illness of work less than 10% of the total course grade:

Medical documentation will be required; such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Academic Offences:

Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following

Website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Support Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Use of Plagiarism Software:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

The use of electronic devices will not be permitted for the final exam in this course.

Additional Links:

Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)

Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)

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://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.