

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline
Fall 2022**

**Philosophy 2200 (001):
Introduction to Ancient Philosophy**

**Fall Term
Blended**

Instructor: Devin Henry
Office: StH 3141

Lecture: Tu 9:30-11:30, FNB 1240
Office Hours (virtual): By Appointment
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DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with an introduction to the questions confronted by the main figures of Ancient Greek philosophy (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenistic Philosophers). We shall examine such questions as: What is philosophy and how should it be practiced? What is the underlying nature of reality? Is the fundamental state of the universe motion or stability? Is knowledge possible? If so, how do we acquire it? Can we have knowledge of a changing world or does knowledge require eternal, unchanging objects (e.g. Plato's Forms)? What is the nature of happiness and how does one attain it? How many kinds of friendship are there? Is friendship necessary for happiness?

This is a blended course. One hour per week will be online, during which time students are expected to listen to the weekly podcast-style lectures (available on OWL). The two hours of in-person class will be devoted to discussion of the course material.

TEXTS

All texts available at the UWO Bookstore or on Amazon.ca.

Plato, *Five Dialogues*. Hackett Publishing.

Basic Works of Aristotle. Edited by Richard McKeon.

Hellenistic Philosophy: an introduction. Edited by Brad Inwood and Lloyd Gerson.

OBJECTIVES

This course has two objectives. The first is to give students of philosophy an introduction to the origins and foundations of their discipline, including the problems that define it. The second is to help students develop their ability to read and understand difficult philosophical texts and to reflect on the ideas and arguments they offer us. These are basic skills that every well-rounded philosopher should have.

REQUIREMENTS

In class participation	10%
Short paper (4-5 pages)	35% each
Term paper	45%

*The participation grade for this course is based on completing a series of in-class reading question assignments. Each class students will be asked to answer (in written form) one question based on the readings for that week. The questions are such that they can be answered in a short paragraph within 5-10 minutes. Each one will be graded on a pass/fail basis counting for 1/10 of the participation grade (for a maximum of 10).

See OWL for instructions, late policies, and assignment due dates.

COVID-19 POLICY

All students must adhere to Western's vaccine policy:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section3/mapp311_covid19.pdf

Students are also required to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Western policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical or religious reasons must seek formal accommodation through Accessible Education at aew@uwo.ca. Students are expected not to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks. Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Western policy and public health directives will be referred to the Department, and such actions will be considered a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

AUDIT

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

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

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/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.

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The

UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade. For 3000- or 4000-level courses in which such a graded assessment is impracticable, the instructor(s) must obtain an exemption from this policy from the Dean and this exemption must be noted on the corresponding course syllabus. In rare instances and at the Dean's discretion, other courses could receive a similar exemption, which also must be noted in the course syllabus.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

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

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

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>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

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

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdwweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

PHILOSOPHY 2200F (200) FALL 2022: INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

Below you will find the weekly reading schedule for this course. Students are expected to have read the material AND listened to the accompanying podcast lectures prior to the Tuesday class. The podcast episodes are meant to guide you through the assigned readings. The in-person component will provide students with the opportunity to raise questions and discuss the material arising from the online lectures and readings. There will be no in-person lecturing; all lecture material is delivered online. Instead, class time will be spent entirely on student-driven questions and discussion.

Below is the weekly reading schedule. Students should begin by reading the material and listening to the first TWO podcast episodes for Weeks 1 & 2, which will be discussed in class on the Tuesday of Week 2 (Sept 14). The Week 3 material will then be discussed on Tuesday Sept 21, Week 4 material on Sept 28, and so forth.

Week	Topic	Readings	Podcast Episode
1. —	Socratic Ethics (Part 1)	Plato's <i>Apology</i>	Apology
2. Sept. 14	Socratic Ethics (Part 2)	Plato's <i>Crito</i>	Crito
3. Sept. 21	Plato's Epistemology	Plato's <i>Meno</i>	Meno
4. Sept. 28	Platonic Metaphysics	Plato's <i>Phaedo</i>	Phaedo
5. Oct. 5	Aristotle on Happiness	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Book I, X	NE_Part 1&2
6. Oct. 12	Virtue & Friendship	NE II 1-6, VIII 1-4, IX 9	Virtue & Friendship
7. Oct. 19	Aristotle's Political Philosophy	<i>Politics</i> I 1-2, III 1-10	Aristotle's Politics
8. Oct. 26	Science and Metaphysics	<i>Categories</i> 1-2, 5 <i>Posterior Analytics</i> I 2-4	Aristotle (Cats, APo)
9. Nov. 2	**Fall Reading Week**		
10. Nov. 9	Nature, Soul, and Cause	<i>Physics</i> II 1-3, <i>De anima</i> II 1-3	Aristotle (Physics, Soul)
11. Nov. 16	Epicurus' physics	"Letter to Herodotus". <i>Hellenistic philosophy: introductory readings</i> , pp. 5-19	Epicurus_Physics
12. Nov. 23	Epicurus' ethics	"Letter to Menoeceus". <i>Hellenistic philosophy: introductory readings</i> , pp. 28-31. Also read pp. 32-36, 43-44	Epicurus_Ethics

Week	Topic	Readings	Podcast Episode
13. Nov 30	Stoicism	<i>Hellenistic philosophy: introductory readings</i> , pp. 179-80 (sec. II,77-II,81) and pp. 182-89 (II,84-II,91)	Freedom & Determinism
14. Dec 7	No class		