

Great Philosophical Ideas, Part I

PHIL 1610 A – Fall 2016

Lectures: Wed/Fri 13:00-14:30

Classroom: 238 Tory

Professor: Christopher McGrath

Email: christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca

Office: 329B Paterson

Office Hours: Wed 15:00-16:00 or by appointment

Class Description:

Major Figures and developments in philosophy from the early Greeks to the year 1400.

Descriptive and comparative approach, providing an understanding of the place of philosophers in the history of thought. Appreciation of critical reasoning is included for comprehending philosophical developments.

We'll have three main aims in this course. First, to introduce the study of ancient and medieval philosophy, by considering, as they pertain to this period, the general history of philosophy's development, the thought of representative philosophers, and some of the arguments and ideas which have been formative of philosophical interests generally. Second, to hone our ability to read, interpret, and understand, especially by dealing with texts whose style and concerns may be unfamiliar. Third, to hone our ability to reason and argue effectively, by practicing constructive interpretation of arguments found in those sources.

We will pursue these aims by following a course of readings drawn from primary sources, covering some of the most influential texts of the ancient and medieval periods. Our theme for the semester will be *humanity*, so we will be reading some of the classic sources which address questions like: *What does it mean to be human? What is our place in nature? What is the nature of the good life?*

The Class Work:

To prepare to do well on the assessments, and as part of the ongoing work of the class, students will be expected to:

1. Do the readings.
2. Attend the lectures.
3. Prepare the review material.

These three activities mutually inform one another. It is important to do the **readings**, as they provide the material which everything else we do will be based on. It is best to have the readings done prior to the relevant class, as the lecture will be spent engaging that material. It is important to attend the **lectures**, as the lectures will be spent unpacking the ideas and arguments found in the readings, and which will be the basis for the tests. And it is important to prepare the **review material**. These are prompts and questions which will be distributed with the readings, and which will help guide students through the

readings, by getting them to identify some key elements. These key elements, in turn, provide the basis for what will be discussed in the lectures and asked about on the tests.

The Assessment:

Assessment will be based on two tests and a term paper. The tests will be a combination of short and long answer questions, drawn from the review materials. They will be non-cumulative, so the first test will cover only the material from the first half of the course and the second will cover only the material from the second half. The term paper will be a short paper on a particular theme in ancient philosophy, due mid-semester, and will involve some additional reading (the readings will be assigned with the paper topic).

Term Paper (30%): Due October 21 (in class)

Test #1 (35%): November 4 (in class)

Test #2 (35%): *during the final exam period*

Any student who is unable to submit the test or paper on the relevant date should contact the professor as soon as is feasible. To defer a test, adequate documentation excusing the absence must be provided. Term papers submitted late, without a documented need for accommodation, may be penalized up to 10% a day.

Course Textbook:

All readings are publicly available online, and links have been provided below. Students who wish to purchase books containing this material are welcome to read from their own editions, and suggestions will be posted to the course website.

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

Adjustments to the schedule or assigned readings may be made, pending our ability to adequately work through the material during the classes. A tentative framework for the lectures, along with the reading assignments, is listed below.

Introduction		
1	September 7	Introduction I
2	September 9	Introduction II
Ancient Philosophy I: Myth and the Beginning of Philosophy in Archaic Greece		
3	September 14	Hesiod
4	September 16	Heraclitus
Ancient Philosophy II: Philosophy in Classical Greece		
5	September 21	Plato I
6	September 23	Plato II
7	September 28	Plato III
8	September 30	Aristotle I
9	October 5	Aristotle II
10	October 7	Aristotle III
Ancient Philosophy III: Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Period		
11	October 12	Epictetus
12	October 14	Epicurus
13	October 19	Sextus Empiricus
14	October 21	Plotinus (Term Paper Due)
Review and Test #1		
	October 26	No Class (Fall Break)
	October 28	No Class (Fall Break)
15	November 2	Review
16	November 4	Test #1 (In-Class Test)
Medieval Philosophy I: The Christian Background		
17	November 9	The Bible
18	November 11	Ambrose
Medieval Philosophy II: From Augustine to Aquinas		
19	November 16	Augustine
20	November 18	Boethius
21	November 23	Bonaventure
22	November 25	Aquinas I
23	November 30	Aquinas II
Medieval Philosophy III: The Fate of Medieval Philosophy in the Renaissance		
24	December 2	Pico della Mirandola
Review		
25	December 7	Review

Schedule of Readings:

3	Hesiod	<i>Works and Days</i>
		Lines 1-285
		http://omacl.org/Hesiod/works.html
4	Heraclitus	<i>Fragments</i>
		3-7, 91-94, 61-64, 118-120, 1-2, 80-85, 8-15
		http://community.middlebury.edu/~harris/Philosophy/heraclitus.pdf
5	Plato I	<i>Crito</i>
		http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1023145
6	Plato II	<i>Phaedo</i>
		96a-100e and 63e-68b
		http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=plat.+phaedo+57a
7	Plato III	<i>Republic</i>
		427d-434e and 439a-444a
		http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Plat.+Rep.+toc
8	Aristotle I	<i>On the Soul</i>
		II:1-3
		http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/soul.html
9	Aristotle II	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
		I:1-2,7,13
		http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html
10	Aristotle III	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
		I:4-5 and X:6-8
		http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.html
11	Epictetus	<i>Discourses</i>
		I:1,3; II:2; and III:3
		http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0237
12	Epicurus	<i>Letter to Menoeceus</i>
		http://www.epicurus.net/en/menoceus.html
13	Sextus Empiricus	<i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i>
		I:1-12
		TBD

14	Plotinus	<i>Enneads</i>
		I:6
		https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Enneads/Beauty
17	The Bible	<i>Exodus</i> 19-20:21, <i>Matthew</i> 5-7, and <i>1 John</i> 1:5-2:11
		https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+19-20%3A21&version=NRSV
		https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7&version=NRSV
		https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+1%3A5-2%3A11&version=NRSV
18	Ambrose	<i>Letters of St. Ambrose</i>
		“The Memorial of Symmachus, Prefect of the City” and Epistle XVIII
		http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf210.v.iii.html
		http://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf210.v.iv.html
19	Augustine	<i>The Trinity</i>
		X:3-10
		http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/1301.htm
20	Boethius	<i>The Consolation of Philosophy</i>
		Book II: Prose I, V-VI and Book III: Prose I-II
		http://www.exclassics.com/consol/cons5.htm
		http://www.exclassics.com/consol/cons6.htm
21	Bonaventure	<i>The Mind's Road to God</i>
		I:2,4-6,9,13-15; II:1-9; III:1-4; and V:1-2
		https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/journey-of-the-mind-into-god/
22	Aquinas I	<i>Summa Theologica</i>
		1q2a2-3, 1q50a1, 1q65a1, 1q76a1, and 1q93a1&a3
		http://www.newadvent.org/summa/
23	Aquinas II	<i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i>
		Book III: Q111, 112:1-2, 113:1-4, 114:1-4, 115:1-3, 116:1, 117:1-3, 119:1, 121
		http://dhspriority.org/thomas/english/ContraGentiles.htm
24	Pico della Mirandola	<i>Oration on the Dignity of Man</i>
		First ten paragraphs (up to and incl. “But what is the purpose...?”)
		https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/p/pico_della_mirandola/giovanni/dignity/

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/PMC/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735