

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHIL2005 – Greek Philosophy and the Western Tradition

Carleton University, Fall/Winter 2016-2017

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:05-2:25pm, Room: SA 415 (Fall)

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office: 3A49 Paterson Hall

Office hours. Fall: Monday 2:45-3:45pm, Wednesday 2:30-3:30pm, or by appointment

Winter: Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:30, or by appointment

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I – DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This course has two main objectives:

1) Historical

What is philosophy? One way of approaching this question is to investigate its origin. Philosophy was not born yesterday... Indeed, this form of discourse, inquiry and way of life of which Plato would later speak as *philosophia* was born in Greece nearly twenty-six centuries ago. In this course, we will examine the historical and political context in which philosophy, as a practice and a discipline, appeared and developed since its birth in the VIth century BC Greece, up until the IVth century AD. This will allow us to grasp the coherence of our Western philosophical tradition while becoming aware of the discontinuities marking its development. Furthermore, not only is philosophy one of the most ancient disciplines taught in university, it is also the source for many others (mathematics, astronomy, physics, psychology, and political science for example). We are looking to grasp, then, how philosophy gave rise to these disciplines and how it distinguished itself from the natural sciences, from religion, myth, poetry, political science or rhetoric (although it is related to all of these practices in some respect).

2) Critical (and existential)

The goal of this course is not purely historical. As we will see, many ancient schools presented themselves as forms of therapy, as a method of caring for the self allowing one to attain happiness. Each school proposed a certain way of life founded on a specific conception of the world and of the human mind/soul. Becoming Stoic, Sceptic, Cynic or Epicurean implied a choice and commitment to a particular way of life on the part of the disciple. As a method of caring for the self, ancient philosophy still has lessons to teach us today. This course will, then, allow us to adopt a critical position regarding the (very abstract) contemporary conception of philosophy and to enrich our own experience of philosophy as an activity that that engages our existence.

At the end of this course students will walk away with a solid training in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, as well as a richer understanding of their own practice as philosophical apprentices.

II - METHODOLOGY

The course will consist of lectures. However, a significant part of the training for this course rests on the attentive reading of the philosophical texts themselves. Students will be told in advance which texts to read before class and are expected to actively take part by asking questions and participating in discussions.

Attendance is mandatory! *If you don't attend class on a regular basis, you will not be successful in this course. Do take that into account before signing up.*

I post my Power Point slides on CU Learn, but these include only my lecture outline and useful quotes (I do not post my personal notes). Thus, the slides are in no way a substitute to the lectures.

III – REQUIRED BOOKS

The following books are available at **Haven Books**

43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), tel.: 613-730-9888, info@havenbooks.ca:

- ***Philosophy Classics, Vol. 1: Ancient Philosophy***, sixth edition, Baird, F.& W. Kaufmann (ed.), Pearson, Prentice Hall, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-78385-4
- ***Plato's Laches and Charmides***, Translated by R.K. Sprague, Hackett Publ., 1992, ISBN: 0-87220-134-1 (an online option is also available for those who prefer not to buy the book. Use the Ares online reserve or go to: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0176%3Atext%3DLach.%3Apage%3D178>)

- N.B.: There are copies of the textbook and of the *Laches* on reserve at the library. For those of you who wish to do extra readings for the course the 6 volumes of GUTHRIE, W.K.C., *A History of Greek Philosophy* are also placed on reserve.

IV – OUTLINE and CALENDAR:

Note: This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change (with notice). You will be informed of the readings required weekly.

FALL TERM: *From the Presocratics to Plato*

1- 09/07	General intro
2- 09/12, 14	What is Greek philosophy? / Intro to the Presocratics
3- 09/19, 21	The Milesians (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes); Xenophanes / Pythagoras
4- 09/26, 28	Heraclitus
5- 10/03, 05	Parmenides / Zeno of Elea, Empedocles
6- 10/12	Anaxagoras; Democritus
7- 10/17, 19	Sophists intro / Sophistic perspectivism, relativism
* 10/24-28	<i>Fall Break, no classes!</i>
8- 10/31, 11/02	The 'Immoralist' disciples of the Sophists / Socrates life and tragic death
9- 11/07, 09	Socrates' mission / Socrates' method
10- 11/14, 16	Socrates' method / Plato's life and work, the dialogue form
11- 11/21, 23	Plato's psychology / Platonic Love
12- 11/28, 30	Plato's <i>Republic</i> , Ethics / political utopia
13- 12/05, 12/07	Plato's <i>Republic</i> , political utopia / Plato's ontology, the Cave [ESSAY 1 due]
(14- 12/09	<i>Potential make-up class. Will be cancelled if not needed – follows a Monday schedule)</i>

December 10-22 *Examination period*

WINTER TERM: *From Aristotle to Plotinus*

1- 1/09, 11	Plato's ontology, the Forms, the Line / the Good and the Sun; Plato's cosmology (<i>Timaeus</i>)
2- 1/16, 18	Aristotle's life and works, method / Aristotle's metaphysics
3- 1/23, 25	Aristotle's metaphysics / Aristotle's physics (the four causes, theology)
4- 1/30, 2/01	Aristotle's logic, theory of science / Aristotle's ethics
5- 2/06, 08	Aristotle's ethics
6- 2/13, 15	Aristotle's ethics / Aristotle's politics
* 2/20-24	<i>Winter Break, no classes!</i>
7- 2/27, 3/01	Hellenistic philosophy, intro; the Cynics / Skepticism
8- 2/06, 3/08	Skepticism / Epicureanism
9- 3/13, 15	Epicureanism / Stoicism
10- 3/20, 22	Stoicism
11- 3/27, 29	Stoicism
12- 4/03, 05	Neo-Platonism [ESSAY 2 due]

April 10-25, *Final examination period*

V – COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1- 2 Essays: 40% (20% each, final due date: Dec. 7th and April 5th at the beginning of the class)

2- AND EITHER:

Option 1: Weekly mini-assignments: 60% (30% for each semester, see description below)

OR

Option 2: Two tests during the official examination periods, one in December, one in April: 60% (30% each)

3- Bonus marks: Attendance and participation: 10% (5% for each semester). If you miss no more than three classes in the semester, you get the bonus!

- The **Essays** (10 pages; double spaced) are due by Dec 7th (Essay 1) and April 4th (Essay 2), but *you may hand them in early*. If you choose to hand in an essay before its final due date and you are unsatisfied with the mark you receive, you may try to improve on it

up until the final due date. Your best mark for the essay will be taken and applied to your overall grade. An **instruction sheet** will be handed out at the beginning of the term. Note that I will dock 2 marks per day for late assignments. **NO E-MAIL SUBMISSION!!!!**

- The weekly **Mini-assignments** (10 for each semester) consist in quizzes or critical responses to assigned readings or material presented in class. They should be no longer than one page each. Their purpose is to ensure you have completed the readings, reviewed your notes and actively engaged with the material. *Unless you have a medical note, there will be **no make-up mini-assignments!!!!*** You will be given notice on Wednesdays that a reading review/reflection is due (or that a quiz will take place) on the next Monday. The assignments **MUST be handed in in class, on Monday. NO E-MAIL SUBMISSION! NO LATE SUBMISSION!** I will give them back to you but you are responsible for keeping them all.

-The **Tests** will be on all the material covered in the term (fall term for the December exam, and winter term for the April exam).

The way for you to signify that you choose Option 2 (the Test) is simply to show up and write the test during the examination period. If you have submitted some mini-assignments and finally decide to write the test, I will keep your highest result (either the overall mini-assignment result, or the test result).

You may choose Option 1 for the fall semester and Option 2 for the winter semester, or vice versa.

***NOTE: I strongly recommend that you choose Option 1. It is easier than Option 2, it is gradual, stress free, and it is pedagogically more fruitful than Option 2. By keeping you engaged, it will make the course significantly more rewarding and more interesting for both you and me. Besides, you won't have to worry about having to be in Ottawa for a test during the examination period!

If you have any **questions or concerns** do not hesitate to send me an e-mail! E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. Questions received via e-mail will receive quick responses.

Note: Students who are registered with the **Paul Menton Centre** are responsible for soliciting letters of accommodation and making arrangements in due time. They **must respect all the deadlines** if they want to be granted special accommodations.

VI - BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ACKRILL, J.L., *Aristotle the Philosopher*, London, 1981.
- BARNES, J., *The Presocratic Philosophers*, London-Boston, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1982.
- _____, *Early Greek Philosophy*, Penguin Books, 1987.
- _____, *Aristotle. A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2000.
- BRAGUE, R., *Eccentric Culture: A Theory of Western Civilization*, South Bend, Indiana: St. Augustine's Press, 2002.
- _____, *The Wisdom of the World: The Human Experience of the Universe in Western Thought*, Fagan, 2003
- BRICKHOUSE, Th.C., *Socrates on Trial*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1989.
- DODDS, E.R., *The Greeks and the Irrational*, Berkeley, Univ. of California Press, 1951.
- FRIEDLÄNDER, P., *Plato*, 3 vol., New York, Pantheon Books, Bollingen Series LIX, 1958-1969.
- GUTHRIE, W.K.C., *A History of Greek Philosophy*, vol. 1-6, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1962-.
- HADOT, P., *What is ancient philosophy?*, trans. M. Chase, Cambridge, Mass, The Belknap Press of Harvard U.P. 2004.
- KAHN, Ch., *Plato and the Socratic Dialogue: the Philosophical Use of a Literary Form*, Cambridge: U. Press, 1996.
- KERFERD, G.B., *The Sophistic Movement*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1981.
- KRAUT, R. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Plato* [1992], Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996.
- REMES, P., *Neoplatonism*, Berkeley/Los Angeles, University of California Press, 2008.
- SEDLEY, D. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- TUOMINEN, M., *The Ancient Commentators on Plato and Aristotle*, Berkeley/Los Angeles, Univ. of California Press, 2009.
- UNTERSTEINER, M., *The Sophists*, trans. K. Freeman, Oxford, Blackwell, 1954.
- VLASTOS, G., *Socrates. Ironist and Moral Philosopher*, Ithaca (NY), Cornell Univ. Press, 1991.
- _____, *Socratic Studies*, M. Burnyeat (ed.), Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994.

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*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. 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