

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHIL2005 – Greek Philosophy and the Western Tradition

Carleton University, Fall/Winter 2013-2014
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:35-12:55, Room: TBA

Professor: Annie Larivée
Office: 3A49 Paterson Hall
Office hours: Mon. 1:15-2:00pm, Wed. 1:15-2:45pm, or by appointment
Tel.: (613) 520-2600 ext. 3799, E-mail: annie_larivee@carleton.ca
T.A.: TBA

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, research and lifestyle 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

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 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 philosophical activity.

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.

Please do take that into account before signing up.

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. Laches and Charmides, trans. R.K. Sprague, Hackett Pub., Indianapolis/Cambridge, 1992, ISBN: 0-87220-134-1

N.B.: There are two copies of the textbook on reserve at the library and 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). At the end of each class, you will be informed of the readings required for our next class.

FALL TERM: From the Presocratics to Plato

- 1- 09/09, 11 General introduction; what is Greek philosophy? Geographical and historical points of reference
- 2- 09/16, 18 The ‘Greek Miracle’: from *mythos* to *logos*; The Presocratics; The Milesians:Thales, Anaximander
- 3- 09/23, 25 Pythagoras; Xenophanes; Heraclitus, intro
- 4- 09/30, 10/2 Heraclitus on the cosmos and on the soul
- 5- 10/7, 9 Parmenides; Zeno of Elea
- 6- 10/16 Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus
- 7- 10/21, 23 The Sophists (Protagoras, Gorgias, Antiphon); **TEST 1 on Oct. 23**
- 8- 11/4, 6 Socrates, intro. His definitional search “what is X?”
- 9- 11/11, 13 Socrates, the Delphic oracle; the Socratic method (the *elenchus*, *aporia*, maieutics)
- 10- 11/18, 20 Plato: intro., biography, the platonic corpus, Dialogue as a literary genre
- 11- 11/25, 27 Plato: Eros, death, the nature of the soul and *philosophia* in the Middle Dialogues (*Symposium*, *Phaedo*)
- 12- 12/2,4 Plato and politics, the *Republic* (the psycho-politic method of inquiry), The ‘three waves’
- 13- 12/9 Plato: The Allegory of the cave [ESSAY 1 due]

TEST 2: During the examination period, December 11 - 22

WINTER TERM: From Aristotle to Plotinus

- 1- 1/6, 8 Plato’s ontology and epistemology
- 2- 1/13, 15 Aristotle, intro; biography; the corpus
- 3- 1/20, 22 Aristotle, the *organon*; his metaphysics
- 4- 1/27, 29 Aristotle’s theory of Substance; his theory of the four causes. Intro to the specificity of ancient ethics
- 5- 2/3, 5 Aristotle’s ethics: the purpose of *NE*; *Eudaimonia* and examination of different ways of life
- 6- 2/10, 12 Aristotle’s ethics: moral virtues, practical wisdom (*phronesis*), *metriopathy*; How to become virtuous?
- 7- 2/17-21 *Winter Break, no classes!*
- 8- 2/24, 26 **TEST 3 on Feb. 24**, Intro to Hellenistic philosophy; Scepticism: Pyrrho
- 9- 3/3, 5 Scepticism, Sextus Empiricus; The Cynics
- 10- 3/10, 12 Epicureanism: physics, ‘canonics’, art of living
- 11- 3/17, 19 Stoicism: logics, physics
- 12- 3/24, 26 Stoicism: Ethics, psychology
- 13- 3/31, 4/2 Neo-Platonism (Plotinus) [ESSAY 2 due]
- [14- 4/7 *Potential make-up class –will be cancelled if we don’t need to make up a class*]

FINAL EXAMINATION: During the examination period, April 11 - 26

V – COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- 12 quizzes and reading reviews:..... 20% (2% each, see description below)
- 3 Tests:..... 30% (10% each; to be held on Oct.23rd, in the Dec. examination period, and on Feb. 24th)
- 2 Essays:..... 30% (15% each, final due date: Dec. 9th and April 2nd at the beginning of the class)
- Final Examination:..... 20% (during the official examination period in April)

- The **Quizzes** (about 10 min. each, at the beginning of the class) and **Reading reviews** (critical responses to reading --one page each) simply aim to ensure you have completed the readings and reviewed your notes. Of the 12 quizzes/reading reviews, I will only take your 10 best marks into account. This means you can miss two of them without being penalised. *There will be no make-up quizzes/reading reviews!!!* You will be given notice one class in advance that a quiz is taking place next class or that a reading review is due (at the beginning of next class).

- Each of the **Tests** will be worth 10%, for a total of 30% of the overall grade. The first test takes place in the fall term and will cover all the material seen since the beginning of the course. The second test will cover all the material seen since the beginning of the term and will take place during the examination period. The third test will cover the material seen since the beginning of the winter term. Each of them will last one hour and twenty minutes.

- The **Essays** (8-10 pages; double spaced) are due by Dec 9th (Essay 1) and April 2nd (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.

- The **Final Examination** (3 hours) will take place during the official examination period. The questions asked will involve all the material covered in the winter term.

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.
- ROMILLY, J. de, *Les Grands Sophistes dans l'Athènes de Périclès*, Paris, De Fallois, 1988. (Has been translated in English)
- 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.

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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

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 me 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 me 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 me 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 me 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. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 18	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. 11	University Day – no undergraduate classes.
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 –	
Nov. 1	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. 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	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	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