

PHIL2005 (1.0 credit)  
Ancient Philosophy: The Search for Wisdom

**\*\*\* THIS IS A DRAFT!**

**CHANGES MAY BE MADE BEFORE THE OFFICIAL START OF THE COURSE**

## Course outline

Professor: Annie Larivée  
Office hours: on Zoom upon request  
E-mail: [annielarivee@carleton.ca](mailto:annielarivee@carleton.ca)  
T.A.: TBA, E-mail: [TBA@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:TBA@cmail.carleton.ca)

Fall-Winter 2021-2022  
Blended Course (online with optional synchronous discussions)  
Official course scheduling:  
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1:05-2:25pm

The course has asynchronous and (optional) synchronous elements. **For online learning technical requirements, go to:**  
<https://carleton.ca/its/help-centre/faq-technical-specs-for-new-students/>

### 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND VISION

In this course we embark on a journey to Ancient Greece and Rome to explore the source of philosophy as a millennial quest for wisdom. Our journey has two parts.

In the fall, we focus our attention on ***philosophy as a form of contemplation*** guided by the most basic question of all: What is reality? What is our world made of? We will see that philosophy was the fertile ground in which many other types of knowledge started to flourish –mathematics, astronomy, biology, psychology, linguistics, and political science among others. We will also examine how philosophy attempted to distinguish the wisdom it sought from mythology, poetry, sophistry, political power, and rhetoric.

In the winter, we discover ***philosophy as a way of life*** that pledges to lead its practitioners to *eudaimonia*, i.e., flourishing, happiness. The primary question of philosophy then becomes: What is the good life? What leads to happiness? We will see that becoming a Stoic, Sceptic, Cynic or Epicurean philosopher implied a commitment to a way of life shaped by a specific conception of the world, the mind, soul, and human nature. We will explore these existential options to see if they can still teach us how to live.



### 2. MAIN LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you will have developed:

1. a solid comprehension of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy's main stages of development,
2. a strong grasp of the core principles and doctrines embraced in diverse philosophical schools,
3. an appreciation for the contribution of philosophy to a meaningful human life,
4. a 'historical sense' (i.e., a sense of the distance that separates our present from the past, a sense of our connection to the past, and a critical attitude towards both the past and present).
5. good reading, writing, reasoning, and argumentative skills,
6. good time management skills and appreciation of the benefits of having a weekly 'routine'.

### 3. COURSE DESIGN and WEEKLY ROUTINE

This is a 1.0 credit course!

The course consists of 24 Lessons available on Brightspace: 12 in the fall, 12 in the winter.

One Lesson corresponds to the material covered and activities to be completed each week.

**The formula is simple. Here is our routine:**

- Each Lesson is available on Sunday at midnight.
- I send you a weekly reminder on Monday morning.
- You have one week to complete the Lesson (content described below).

Although the bulk of the work is done asynchronously, at your own pace, we do stay connected!

- Every Tuesdays at 1:30 pm, we have an **optional** live **zoom Discussion**. You can use it to get participation marks. Participation is assessed through a 'Participation report quiz'.
- If you can't attend the class discussion, you can also get participation marks by joining our discussion **Forum** on Brightspace, or by annotating weekly readings on **Perusall**.

There is no final exam or essay in this course. Assimilation and progress depend on regular, sustained engagement.

In addition to the 24 Lessons, there is a 'Welcome to the course!' Module available on Brightspace. This module comprises: a welcome video (with explanations on the course vision, on requirements, etc.), a course outline in PDF form, a 'Course Commitment and Honor Pledge' form, and a Quiz on the Outline and Pledge (that unlocks Lesson 1).

### 4. TYPICAL STRUCTURE OF LESSONS

*Here is what a typical Lesson contains:*

Brief Introduction video or Lesson overview

#### **'Theoria Section'**

- Theoria part 1:
  - o Mini-lectures set 1
  - o Occasionally, reading(s) and/or link(s) to video(s)
  - o *Quiz on mini-lectures/readings/videos above*
- Theoria Part 2:
  - o Mini-lectures set 2
  - o Occasionally, reading(s) and/or link(s) to video(s)
  - o *Quiz on mini-lectures/readings/videos above*
- Occasionally, a Closing video (brief recap, explanations on weekly assignment, writing advice, etc.)

#### **'Praxis Section'**

- Mandatory readings for mini-assignments available on Perusall
- Mini-assignment instructions
- Live zoom discussion on mini-assignment/course content held on Tuesdays.
- Discussions on the Forum
- Weekly Participation Report Quiz on Brightspace

## 5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each semester is worth 50% of your final grade, and each semester's grade is made up of the following:

### Quizzes:

- 2 per Lesson (5 questions for each quiz from a bank; questions are on material covered in the mini-lectures)
- Worth 40% per semester
- You have 2 attempts per quiz, and only your best attempt on each quiz counts.
- 10 minutes for each quiz attempt.
- You know which answers you got right or wrong, but correct answers are not provided after completion.

### Weekly mini assignment:

- One-page written exercise submitted weekly (total of 12)
- Only your 8 best marks count
- Total of 45% per semester
- \*\*\* No late submissions accepted unless given an extension by the Professor.
- \*\*\*To unlock each week's mini assignment, you need to have completed an attempt on both quizzes for that week.
- Optional zoom discussion on mini-assignment on the following Tuesday
- Forum discussions can be on the topic discussed in the mini-assignment

### Engagement + participation:

- You may get participation points each week by either:
1. Making a Forum post and responding to another Forum post.
  2. Making a comment on Perusall and responding to another comment.
  3. Submitting a discussion question through the "discussion question survey" for our zoom discussion, and then attending that discussion.
- This will be assessed through a quick 'Participation report quiz' each week
  - Only 8 weeks of participation points count per semester, so you only need to claim participation points 8 times a semester to get full points.
  - Total of 15% per semester

**NOTE:** *If you don't watch my pre-recorded lectures and do the work on a weekly basis, you will not be successful in this course. Most importantly, you will not fully benefit from our shared journey. If you fall behind, you are responsible for catching up, but non-excused late mini assignments are **not accepted**.*

Students registered with the **Paul Menton Centre** are responsible for soliciting letters of accommodation in due time.

Please check your Carleton account regularly. If you have any **questions or concerns** do not hesitate to contact your T.A. or myself. We are there for you!

## 6. READING MATERIAL

All Mandatory readings are available for free through *Perusall*, an online course library maker. Please go to <https://app.perusall.com/> and register a free account, then use the following course code to get access to readings: **MACLEAN-EVANS-BX2EQ**

You can also find this Perusall information on the course Brightspace page.

## 7. LESSON TOPICS and CALENDAR

### FALL SEMESTER

#### The Birth of the Search for Wisdom: Philosophy as Contemplation *What is reality? How can we access truth?*

Introduction Module: Welcome to the course!

Fall Semester	Topic	Material available  <i>at midnight on Sunday</i>	Live Discussion + Q&A  <i>on Tuesday 1:00 pm (Zoom)</i>	Activities to be completed  <i>by midnight on Sunday</i>
Lesson 1	<b><i>Getting ready for our journey to Ancient Greece</i></b>	Sep. 5	None this week	Sep. 12
Lesson 2	<b><i>Wondering at things.</i></b> The Presocratic source of the quest for wisdom	Sep. 12	Sep. 14	Sep. 19
Lesson 3	<b><i>All is one.</i></b> The Milesians and Xenophanes in search of unity.	Sep. 19	Sep. 21	Sep. 26
Lesson 4	<b><i>Everything is rational, all is connected.</i></b> Pythagoras on numbers, harmony, and purification of the soul	Sep. 26	Sep. 28	Oct. 3
Lesson 5	<b><i>All is in flux.</i></b> The fiery wisdom of Heraclitus 'the Dark'	Oct. 3	Oct. 5	Oct. 10
Lesson 6	<b><i>Approaching the 'Truth's untrembling core'.</i></b> Parmenides revelation on Being	Oct. 10	Oct. 12	Oct. 17
Lesson 7	<b><i>It's all about basic elements.</i></b> Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Democritus as scientific visionaries	Oct. 17	Oct. 19	Oct. 24
Lesson 8	<b><i>Everything is relative.</i></b> The legacy of the sophistic movement	Oct. 24	Nov. 2	Nov. 7 (Extra time from reading week)
Lesson 9	<b><i>Know thyself.</i></b> From sophia to philosophia: the Socratic turn	Nov. 7	Nov. 9	Nov. 14
Lesson 10	<b><i>Contemplating the Real World with Plato</i></b>	Nov. 14	Nov. 16	Nov. 21
Lesson 11	<b><i>Wisdom as conversion of the soul.</i></b> 'Platonic love' and philosophical ascent	Nov. 21	Nov. 23	Nov. 28
Lesson 12	<b><i>Aristotle and the blessed life of contemplation</i></b>	Nov. 28	Nov. 30	Dec. 5

## WINTER SEMESTER

### The Ancient Search for Happiness. Philosophy as a Way of Life *How should we live? What leads to happiness?*

Winter Semester	Topic	Material available  <i>at midnight on Sunday</i>	Live Discussion + Q&A  <i>on Tuesday 1:00 pm (Zoom)</i>	Activities to be completed  <i>by midnight on Sunday</i>
Lesson 13	<b><i>How not to live.</i></b> Callicles, Thrasymachus, and the 'happiness' of the tyrant	Jan. 9	Jan. 11	Jan. 16
Lesson 14	<b><i>Socrates and the examined life</i></b>	Jan. 16	Jan. 18	Jan. 23
Lesson 15	<b><i>Living like a dog.</i></b> The rough life of the Cynics	Jan. 23	Jan. 25	Jan. 30
Lesson 16	<b><i>Living well inside the cave 1.</i></b> <i>Plato on ruling one's inner citadel</i>	Jan. 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 6
Lesson 17	<b><i>Living well inside the cave 2.</i></b> Plato and the transformation of social life	Feb. 6	Feb. 8	Feb. 13
Lesson 18	<b><i>Reflecting on the good life.</i></b> Aristotle on happiness	Feb. 13	Feb. 15	Feb. 20
Lesson 19	<b><i>How to become virtuous?</i></b> Aristotle's training method	Feb. 20	March 1	March 6 ( <b>Extra time from reading week</b> )
Lesson 20	<b><i>The Stoic Art of Life Part 1.</i></b> 'Amor Fati!'	March 6	March 8	March 13
Lesson 21	<b><i>The Stoic Art of Living Part 2.</i></b> Pacifying Emotions	March 13	March 15	March 20
Lesson 22	<b><i>Skeptical Wisdom</i></b> Happiness Through Suspension of Judgement	March 20	March 22	March 27
Lesson 23	<b><i>The Epicurean Art of Life Part 1</i></b> Living Without Fear	March. 27	March. 29	April 3
Lesson 24	<b><i>Epicurus' Art of Life Part 2</i></b> The Good Life is the Pleasant Life	April 3	April 5	April 10

## 8. SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL READINGS

For those who get hooked and wish to purchase the best editions of Plato and Aristotle's complete works:

- *Plato. Complete Works*. Vol. 1 and 2, Cooper and Hutchinson (ed.), Hackett publ. 1997.
- *Complete Works of Aristotle*, The Revised Oxford Translation, Vol. 1 and 2, J. Barnes (ed.), Oxford U. Press, 1984.

ADAMSON, P., *Classical Philosophy: A History of Philosophy without any gaps*, Volume 1, Oxford U. Press, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy without any gaps*, Volume 2, Oxford U. Press, 2015.

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.

BETT, R., *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Scepticism*, Cambridge U. Press, 2010.

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

DESMOND, W. *The Cynics*, University of California Press, 2008.

DILLON, J., T. GERGEL (ed.), *The Greek Sophists*, Penguin Classics, 2003

DODDS, E.R., *The Greeks and the Irrational*, Berkeley, Univ. of California Press, 1951.

GUTHRIE, W.K.C., *A History of Greek Philosophy*, vol. 1-6, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1962-.

HADOT, P., *Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault*, Wiley-Blackwell, 1995.

\_\_\_\_\_, *What is Ancient Philosophy?* Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University press, 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Plotinus or the Simplicity of Vision*, University of Chicago Press, 1998.

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*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press, 1996.

NUSSBAUM, M. *The Therapy of Desire*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.

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.

THORSRUUD, H., *Ancient Scepticism*, University of California Press, 2008.

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 (Fall/Winter 2021-22)

### **Assignments:**

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

### **Evaluation:**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

### **Deferrals for Final Exams:**

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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](mailto: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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 8	Classes start.
Sept. 22	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 11	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 25-29	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 26	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 10	Last day of fall term classes. <b><i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i></b> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.
Dec. 11-23	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 10	Classes begin.
Jan. 24	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 21	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 22-25	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 29	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 12	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. <b><i>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</i></b> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 13	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 14-28	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 28	All take-home examinations are due.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:  
[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)  
520-2110

Registrar's Office:  
[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)  
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:  
[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)  
520-7850

Writing Services:  
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>  
520-3822

MacOdrum Library  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>  
520-2735