

PHIL 1610 A – Great Philosophical Ideas, Part 1 Fall 2018

Instructor: Christopher McGrath

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Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday, 14:30-16:00 **Office:** 3A54 Paterson Hall

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday, 14:30-16:00 **Classroom:** 416 Southam Hall

Description:

The aim of this course is to provide students with an initial introduction to ancient and medieval philosophy, with a focus on acquiring basic familiarity with the major periods and philosophical traditions of these eras, and on understanding some of the particularly influential ideas that ancient and medieval philosophers developed.

The course will be divided into three units organized by theme, with each unit pursuing a chronological course of readings and discussions. In each unit, this sequence will trace a philosophical theme from its earliest origins in Greek Poetry and the earliest Greek philosophy (i.e., the Presocratics), through to subsequent developments in ancient philosophy (i.e., Platonism, Aristotelianism, and the Hellenistic schools), through to the burgeoning medieval tradition found in Early Christianity and its subsequent development in Medieval Scholasticism, and will conclude with a consideration of how relevant Renaissance thought mediates between the medieval tradition and modernity.

The first unit, titled “Nature”, will focus on particularly influential ideas pertaining to our understanding of nature, the theory of knowledge, and related themes in the pre-history of science. The second unit, titled “Humanity”, will focus on ethics and human nature, touching briefly on the passions and on politics. The third unit, titled “God”, will focus on major themes in ancient and medieval thought on religion and the nature and existence of the divine.

Schedule of the Lectures:

Lecture topics may be adjusted pending our ability to adequately get through the material in class. But the initial plan is as follows:

#	Date	Topic
1	Sep 06	Introduction to the Class
Unit I - Nature		
2	Sep 11	The Poets and Presocratics on Nature – Mythos and Logos
3	Sep 13	Plato and Aristotle on Method – Increasing Complexity
4	Sep 18	Plato on Nature – The Mathematical Foundation of Nature
5	Sep 20	Aristotle on Nature – The Rationally Ordered Cosmos
6	Sep 25	Scholastics on Nature – The Method of Ascending
7	Sep 27	Scholastics on Nature – The Method of Descending
8	Oct 02	Renaissance Humanism and Nature – Relativizing Nature
9	Oct 04	Test #1
Unit II – Humanity		

10	Oct 09	The Poets and Presocratics on Humanity – Mythos and Logos	
11	Oct 11	Plato on Humanity I – Moral Transcendence	
12	Oct 16	Plato on Humanity II – Moral Unification	
13	Oct 18	Aristotle on Humanity I – Human Life as an Act	
	Oct 23	No Class – Fall Break	
	Oct 25	No Class – Fall Break	
14	Oct 30	Aristotle on Humanity II – Human Nature and Virtue Ethics	
15	Nov 01	Hellenistic Thought on Humanity – Philosophical Psychotherapy	
16	Nov 06	Early Christianity on Humanity – Inwardness and Subjectivity	
17	Nov 08	Renaissance Humanism and Nature – Relativizing Humanity	
18	Nov 13	Test #2	
		Unit III – God	
19	Nov 15	The Poets and Presocratics on God – Mythos and Logos	
20	Nov 20	Plato and Aristotle on God – The Unmoved Mover	
21	Nov 22	Stoicism on God – Divine Providence	
22	Nov 27	Neoplatonism on God – Theurgy as Ritual	
23	Nov 29	Early Christianity on God – The World’s Finitude	
24	Dec 04	Early Christianity on God – Apophatic Theology	
25	Dec 06	Scholastics on God – The Ontological Argument *Term Paper Due	

Assessment:

Students’ performance in the course will be assessed by three tests, two held in class and one held during the final exam period. These three tests are equally weighted and non-cumulative, each covering the material from only one unit. The tests will consist of fill in the blank style questions aimed to test the student’s familiarity with some of the basic terms and concepts introduced during the unit, and point form short answer style questions aimed to test the student’s understanding of select arguments discussed during the unit.

Students will also be required to complete a term paper, to be submitted no later than in class on the final scheduled meeting, which should aim to be around 5 pages double-spaced (4-7 pages is acceptable). The topic must be on ancient and/or medieval philosophy, and show evidence of some independent reading and reasoning by the student. Topics and additional procedures will be discussed in class.

25% - Noncumulative Test #1 on Unit I, held in class on Oct 04.

25% - Noncumulative Test #2 on Unit II, held in class on Nov 13

25% - Noncumulative Test #3 on Unit III, held during final exam period

25% - Term Paper, due in class on Dec 06

Readings:

Readings will be provided online via the course webpage.

Students who wish to purchase books covering the course readings are encouraged to do so, especially if they are interested in philosophy or plan on further philosophical study, in which case they may have further occasion to consult them. Our readings will be taken from a variety of sources, but we will spend enough time with classical philosophy to warrant the interested student purchasing the major editions of these works. The student interested in doing so is advised to purchase some or all of the following:

- West (trans.) *Hesiod: Theogony and Works and Days* (Oxford, 1988)
- Kirk, Raven, and Schofield (eds.) *The Presocratic Philosophers* (Cambridge, 1957)
- Cooper (ed.) *Plato: Complete Works* (Hackett, 1997)
- Barnes (ed.) *The Complete Works of Aristotle*, 2 Vols. (Princeton, 1984)

Class Expectations:

To keep up with the class work, students are expected to attend the lectures and complete the readings in a timely fashion. To be awarded marks for the tests, students are required to be present on the scheduled day to write each test, or to formally request rescheduling at the earliest reasonable notice only on the basis of a documented or comparably reasonable excuse for being unable to write the test on the scheduled day. Likewise, to be awarded marks for the term paper, students are required to submit it by the scheduled day or else formally request an extension on a similar basis.

To facilitate engaging the class material and preparing for the test, brief summaries of the major points discussed in class will be provided on the course webpage. However, these will not serve as an adequate alternative to attending the lectures, and will include only the major points students are expected to remember, without the explanation of them provided during the scheduled lectures.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)

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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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/>

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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Important Dates:

Sept. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	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. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	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. 7	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. 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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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. 9	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. 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. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735