

PHIL 1610 A - Great Philosophical Ideas, Part 1**Fall 2020****Instructor:** Christopher McGrath**Email:** christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 16:00-18:00**Office:** Virtual Office- Chat Room on CuLearn**Lectures:** Asynchronous Pre-Recorded Lectures**Classroom:** Virtual Classroom- Course Webpage**Course 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.

Precludes additional credit for FYSM 1300, PHIL 1600.

The aim of this course will be 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.

Our approach to this subject will be chronological. We will begin with some of the earliest writings in the canon, which might better be thought of as mythological rather than philosophical, and will proceed to consider how philosophy emerged out of this mythological worldview – a birth that occurs in the work of the earliest philosophers, the pre-Socratics. Then, a significant amount of the course will be devoted to introducing students to Plato and Aristotle, who were the first to provide a great synthesis of the philosophical worldview that had been gradually developing in pre-Socratic thought, and who have since been regarded as foundational figures in philosophy's history – and foundational especially for the rest of ancient and medieval philosophy. We will then conclude our survey of ancient Greek philosophy with a consideration of the schools of Hellenistic philosophy: Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism. The second part of the course will provide a survey of late antique, medieval, and renaissance philosophy, focusing on the Christian intellectual tradition. Here we will introduce early Christian thought, the philosophy of the Church Fathers, the great synthesis accomplished by the Scholastic philosophers, and we will conclude the course with a consideration of the Renaissance.

In traversing the development of philosophy chronologically, we will always try to keep in mind some central themes: nature and our knowledge of it, humanity and its values as expressed in moral experience, and the synthesis of these two domains in the expressions of art and religion.

Lecture Schedule:

Lectures topics may be adjusted pending out ability to adequately get through the material in class.

Week Of:	Lecture Topic:
September 07	Introduction to the Course
September 14	Greek Mythology – Hesiod
September 21	The First Philosophers – The Presocratics
September 28	The First Synthesis of Ancient Philosophy - Plato
October 05	The First Synthesis of Ancient Philosophy – Plato (cont’d)
October 12	The Second Synthesis of Ancient Philosophy - Aristotle
October 19	The Second Synthesis of Ancient Philosophy – Aristotle (cont’d)
October 26	NO LECTURES – FALL BREAK
November 02	Hellenistic Philosophy – Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism
November 09	Early Christian Thought – The New Testament and Ambrose
November 16	Patristic Philosophy – Augustine
November 23	Scholastic Philosophy – Bonaventure
November 30	Renaissance Philosophy – Nicholas of Cusa and Pico della Mirandola
December 07	Conclusion to the Course

Assessment:

Students who do not submit assessments by the due date, and do not have authorization for the exception on significant grounds discussed with the instructor, may not receive a mark for that assignment or may receive a penalized mark per the instructor’s judgment. Any expected inability to meet the deadlines, or any failure to meet a deadline, should be discussed with the instructor at the earliest reasonable time so that accommodations may be made in appropriate cases, or course requirements discussed if significant grounds for an exception are not present.

Weekly Exercises – Participation: 4% (DUE MOST WEEKS)

During most weeks of the course, students will be required to submit a brief question or request for explanation pertaining to the readings assigned for that week. How to do this exercise will be taught in the introduction to the course. The aim of this exercise will be to encourage student participation in the course and inform Q&A sessions with the instructor. The submission will be around a couple sentences long, and due by midnight on Monday of the following week.

Three Tests: 24% each (DUE OCTOBER 19th, NOVEMBER 23rd, and DECEMBER 23rd)

The main part of the assessment will be three non-cumulative tests that will consist of long-answer questions addressing the material covered in the assigned readings and lectures. The aim of this exercise will be to consolidate and test student’s understanding of the class material, as

well as help students develop confidence in independent writing. Emphasis will be on accurately describing the material.

Research Paper: 24% **(DUE NOVEMBER 23rd)**

Students will be expected to submit a brief research paper (4-6 pages double-spaced, 1000-1500 words) on a topic in ancient and/or medieval philosophy, that shows evidence of having independently researched, read, and synthesized relevant academic material informing their case, and communicating it in an effective manner.

Readings:

Readings will be provided online via the course webpage.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

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 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. 9	Classes start.
Sept. 23	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. 12	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 27	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. 11	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> 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. 12-23	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. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 20	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. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 15-19	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. 2	Statutory holiday. University closed.
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. 10	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 11-23	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
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