

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### PHIL2005 – Greek Philosophy and the Western Tradition

Carleton University, Fall/Winter 2017-2018

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:05-7:25pm, Room: TBA

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office: 3A49 Paterson Hall

Office hours. Fall: Tuesday 3:00-4:00pm, Thursday 4:00-5:00pm, or by appointment

Winter: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:30pm, 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* appeared 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, developed since its birth in the VI<sup>th</sup> century BC Greece, up until the IV<sup>th</sup> century AD. This will allow us to grasp the coherence of the 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 mostly 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. Please note: Discussions on assigned readings will be more frequent in the winter term.

**Attendance is mandatory!** *If you don't attend class on a regular basis, you will not be successful in this course.*

If you miss a class, *you are responsible for catching up* by borrowing a classmate's notes. 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:

##### Fall semester:

1- *A Presocratics Reader: Selected Fragments and Testimonia*, Patricia Curd (ed.), Hackett Pub Co; 2nd UK ed. edition, 2011), 186 pages. ISBN-10: 1603843051, ISBN-13: 978-1603843058.

2- *A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues*, C. D. C. Reeve (ed.), Hackett Pub Co., 2012, 575 pages. ISBN-10: 1603848118, ISBN-13: 978-1603848114.

**Winter semester:**

3- *The Basic Works of Aristotle*, R. McKeon (ed.) with an intro by Ch. Reeve, Modern Library; Revised ed. edition, 2001, 1520 pages. ISBN-10: 0375757996; ISBN-13: 978-0375757990.

4- *Hellenistic Philosophy; Introductory Readings*, B. Inwood (ed.), Hackett Pub Co Inc; 2nd UK ed. edition, 1997, 441 pages. ISBN-10: 0872203786, ISBN-13: 978-0872203785.

5- *Marcus Aurelius, Meditations: A New Translation*, G. Hays (ed.), Modern Library; 1st edition, 2003), 256 pages. ISBN-10: 0812968255, ISBN-13: 978 0812968255.

Note: A copy of the books will be placed 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.

The texts of other assigned readings (such as Epictetus' *Handbook*) will be available electronically via Ares (Carleton's online reserve system accessible via CULearn).

**IV – OUTLINE and CALENDAR:**

*This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change (with notice).* Please note that changes are especially likely to occur in the winter semester as I am currently re-structuring that part of the course to make it more discussion oriented. You will be informed of the readings assigned weekly, in class (they will appear on my slides).

**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- 10/10, 12                Anaxagoras; Democritus/The Sophistic movement
- 7- 10/17, 19                Sophistic perspectivism, relativism/ the Sophist's 'Immoralist' disciples
- \* 10/23-27                *Fall Break, no classes!*
- 8- 10/31, 11/02             Socrates' life and tragic death/his philosophical mission
- 9- 11/07, 09                Socrates' method
- 10- 11/14, 16               Plato's life and work, the dialogue form/ Plato's psychology
- 11- 11/21, 23               Platonic Love/ Plato's *Republic* intro
- 12- 11/28, 30               Plato's *Republic*, Ethics / political utopia
- 13- 12/05                    Plato's *Republic*, political utopia / Plato's ontology, the Cave **[ESSAY 1 due]**  
    (12/07                    *Potential make-up class. Will be cancelled if no make-up is needed)*

December 10-22            *Examination period*

**WINTER TERM: From Aristotle to Plotinus**

- 1- 01/09, 11                Plato's ontology, the Forms, the Line / the Good and the Sun; Plato's cosmology (*Timaeus*)
- 2- 01/16, 18                Aristotle's life and works, method / Aristotle's metaphysics
- 3- 01/23, 25                Aristotle's metaphysics / Aristotle's physics (the four causes, theology)
- 4- 01/30, 02/01             Aristotle's logic, theory of science / Aristotle's ethics
- 5- 02/06, 08                Aristotle's ethics
- 6- 02/13, 15                Aristotle's ethics / Aristotle's politics
- \* 02/19-23                *Winter Break, no classes!*
- 7- 02/27, 03/01             Hellenistic philosophy, intro; the Cynics / Skepticism
- 8- 03/06, 08                Skepticism / Epicureanism
- 9- 03/13, 15                Epicureanism / Stoicism
- 10- 03/20, 22               Stoicism
- 11- 03/27, 29               Stoicism
- 12- 04/03, 05               Neo-Platonism **[ESSAY 2 due]**  
    (13- 04/10                *Potential make-up class. Will be cancelled if no make-up is needed)*

April 14-26,                *Examination period*

## V – COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

1- 2 Essays: 30% (15% each). Final due date: Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of the class.

2- Mini-assignments: 40% (20% for each semester, see description below)

3- 2 Tests: 30% (15% each). During the official examination periods, one in December, one in April.

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

- The **Essays** (8-10 pages; double spaced) are due by Dec 5<sup>th</sup> (Essay 1) and April 5<sup>th</sup> (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** (up to 10 will be assigned for each semester) consist in quizzes or critical responses to assigned readings and 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 one class in advance that a reading review/reflection is due for next class or that a quiz will take place. For each semester, you will be able to cumulate up to 20 marks for this part of the requirements. Since each mini-assignment will be scored out of 3, this means that you don't have to submit them all in order to get a good grade (*if you apply yourself!*). The mini-assignments **MUST be handed in in class. NO E-MAIL SUBMISSION. NO LATE SUBMISSION.** Note: I give you back your mini-assignments regularly and your grades will be entered in CULearn but you are responsible for keeping them all until the end of the semester.

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

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 (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### **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 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:

**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](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 scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). 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. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	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.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</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. 10-22	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. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	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.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</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. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

### **Addresses:**

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