

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHIL2005 – Greek Philosophy and the Western Tradition

Carleton University, Fall/Winter 2019-2020

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1:05-2:25pm, Room: PA115

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:40-3:40pm, 3A48 Paterson Hall

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Calendar Description :

PHIL 2005 [1.0 credit]

Greek Philosophy and the Western Tradition

The Greek tradition from its pre-Socratic beginnings to Hellenistic and Roman philosophy (Cynicism, Epicureanism, Stoicism, Scepticism); focus on Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Its conservation and reappropriation in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

1. DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This course has two main objectives:

a) Historical

What is philosophy? A simple way of approaching the question is to investigate its origin. Philosophy is one of the most ancient disciplines taught in university. Indeed, this form of inquiry and way of life appeared in Greece approximately twenty-six centuries ago! In this course, we will look at the way *philosophia* first understood itself while paying attention to the cultural context in which it emerged. Our exploration—that will cover the period from its birth in the sixth century BC up until the fourth century AD—will allow us to appreciate both the unity of the Western philosophical tradition and the discontinuities marking its development. Ancient philosophy was also the fertile ground in which many other types of knowledge first started to flourish—mathematics, astronomy, biology, psychology, linguistics, and political science among others. We will examine how philosophy was related to these disciplines while attempting to distinguish itself from mythology and traditional religion, poetry, sophistry, realpolitik, and rhetoric.

b) Critical and existential

The goal of this course is not merely historical. First off, by learning about the origin of ideas that have survived and shaped Western culture, we can develop a critical sense towards what appears 'natural' and a bit too obvious to us... Gaining such awareness will contribute to our self-knowledge as social beings, and favour open-mindedness. Secondly, as we will see, many philosophical schools conceived of themselves as providing arts of living leading to wisdom and happiness. For disciples of ancient philosophy, becoming Stoic, Sceptic, Cynic or Epicurean 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 together and will assess the degree to which ancient philosophy still has valuable lessons to teach us today as a quest for wisdom.

At the end of this course you will walk away with a solid understanding of the core questions that animated ancient philosophers, and will have explored a variety of philosophical arts of living likely to enrich your own experience of life as a whole.

2. COURSE DESIGN, READING MATERIAL, AND STUDENT INVOLVMENT

The course will mostly consist of lectures—especially in the fall. However, a significant part of the training for this course rests on the attentive reading of the philosophical texts themselves. I will tell you in advance which readings are assigned for the week (they will appear on my slides) and you will be expected to take an active part in our learning process by asking questions and engaging in discussions.

To minimize costs, I decided to assign exclusively reading material available online or in electronic form this year. The texts will be accessible shortly through CULearn. You don't have to purchase anything. For those who are old-fashioned and prefer to work with 'real' books, I will make suggestions of relevant books available through Amazon throughout the year (see also section 5, below).

Attendance is mandatory!

If you don't attend class on a regular basis, you will not be successful in this course. Most importantly, you will not fully benefit from our shared journey. If you miss a class occasionally, you are responsible for catching up by borrowing a classmate's notes. I post my Power Point slides on CU Learn (right after the class), but these include only my lecture outline and quotes (I do not post my personal notes). The slides are in no way a substitute for lectures, readings, and in-class discussions.

If you have any **questions or concerns** do not hesitate to contact your T.A. or myself. E-mail is the best way to get in touch with us. You are also expected to check your Carleton account regularly.

3. OUTLINE of TOPICS COVERED and CALENDAR

This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change (with notice).

FALL TERM: From the Presocratics to Plato

Week 1- 09/05	General introduction to the course
Week 2- 09/10, 12	What is Greek philosophy? Historical benchmarks / Intro to the Presocratics
Week 3- 09/17, 19	The Milesians (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes); Xenophanes / Pythagoras
Week 4- 09/24, 26	Heraclitus's wisdom
Week 5- 10/01, 03	Parmenides' meditation on Being / Zeno of Elea's paradoxes; Empedocles
Week 6- 10/08, 10	Anaxagoras; Democritus / Intro to the Sophistic movement
Week 7- 10/15, 17	Protagoras and perspectivism / the Sophists' subversion of moral values
* 10/21-25	<i>Fall Break, no classes!</i>
Week 8- 10/29, 10/31	Socrates' life and death / his 'wise ignorance' and his philosophical mission
Week 9- 11/05, 07	Common reading of a short Socratic dialogue / Socrates' method: elenchus and the search for a definition
Week 10- 11/14	Plato's life and work, the dialogue form [NO CLASS ON TUESDAY]
Week 11- 11/19, 21	Plato's <i>Republic</i> : intro, the psycho-political approach/ utopia (education of women, abolition of family)
Week 12- 11/26, 28	Philosopher-kings and queens, Plato's epistemology and ontology (the Cave, the Line)
Week 13- 12/03, 05	Plato's teleology, the Good and the Sun; cosmology in the <i>Timaeus</i> / 'Platonic love' [ESSAY 1 due]

WINTER TERM: From Aristotle to Plotinus

Week 1- 01/07, 09	Aristotle's life and work; wisdom as contemplation / metaphysics as primary philosophy
Week 2- 01/14, 16	Aristotle's theory of substance / the four causes, the first mover and Aristotle's 'theology'
Week 3- 01/23	Aristotle's foundation of logic [NO CLASS ON TUESDAY]
Week 4- 01/28, 01/30	Aristotle's ethics, the good as <i>telos</i> of human life / happiness and virtue
Week 5- 02/04, 06	Aristotle's 'metriopathy' / happiness and <i>philia</i> ('friendship')
Week 6- 02/11, 13	Intro to Hellenistic and Imperial philosophy as art of life / the Cynics and their dog-like wisdom
* 02/17-21	<i>Winter Break, no classes!</i>
Week 7- 02/25, 03/27	Skeptic wisdom: finding tranquility of mind in ignorance and 'indifference'
Week 8- 03/03, 05	Epicureanism: finding happiness in pleasure and caring for the self with the 'fourfold remedy'
Week 9- 03/10, 12	The Stoic system, intro: cosmic unity, materialism, providence, human freedom
Week 10- 03/17, 19	Lived Stoicism. Epictetus, M. Aurelius and the inner citadel
Week 11- 03/24, 03/26	Seneca and philosophy as a healing method. How to live well in relation to self, time, and death
Week 12- 03/31, 04/02	Plotinus' quest for a spiritual union with 'the one'
Week 13- 04/07	Conclusion to the course: Which path to wisdom would you choose? [ESSAY 2 due]

4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

- Two Essays: 30% (15% each). Final due date: Dec. 5th and April 7th at the beginning of the class
- Weekly mini-assignments: 60% (30% for each semester, see description below)
- Attendance and participation: 10% (5% for each semester).

If you miss no more than three classes in the semester and were involved in discussions, you get the full marks. In case of lack of participation, and for each additional absence, 2% is subtracted.

- The **Essays** (8-10 pages; double spaced) are due by Dec 5th (Essay 1) and April 7th (Essay 2), but *you may hand them in early*. If you do so and are unsatisfied with the mark you receive, you may try to improve on it up until the final due date, and your highest mark will be applied. Our goal is to help you develop writing skills.

An **instruction sheet** will be handed out at the beginning of the term. Note that I will dock 3% per day for late assignments.

- The weekly **Mini-assignments** (at least 10 will be assigned for each semester) consist in quizzes and critical responses to assigned readings and material presented in class. They shall be no shorter than one page and no longer than two pages each, single spaced, and typed. Their purpose is to ensure you have completed the readings, reviewed your notes and actively engaged with the material. I will notify you one class in advance that a reading review/reflection is due for next class or that a quiz will take place. *There will be **no make-up mini-assignments***. I will take your 8 best scores, so you don't have to submit all of them 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 will give you back your mini-assignments regularly and your grades will be entered on a spread sheet by our T.A. but you are responsible for keeping them all until the end of the semester.

Students who are registered with the **Paul Menton Centre** are responsible for soliciting letters of accommodation in due time. They **must respect all the deadlines** if they want to be granted accommodations.

5. READERS OF PRIMARY SOURCES USED IN PREVIOUS YEARS (for those interested)

a) For fall semester:

A Presocratics Reader: Selected Fragments and Testimonia, Patricia Curd (ed.), Hackett Publ., 2011.

A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues, C. D. C. Reeve (ed.), Hackett Publ., 2012.

b) For winter semester:

The Basic Works of Aristotle, R. McKeon (ed.) with an intro by C. Reeve, Modern Library, 2001.

Hellenistic Philosophy; Introductory Readings, B. Inwood (ed.), Hackett Pub Co., 1997.

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations: A New Translation, G. Hays (ed.), Modern Library, 2003.

I have also used the following reader for both semesters in the past:

Ancient Philosophy vol.1, Philosophic Classics, F.E. Baird (ed.), Routledge; 6th edition, 2010.

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.

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL READINGS

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.

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

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 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. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	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. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	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. 6	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. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	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. 7	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	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	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

