

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### PHIL2005 – Greek Philosophy and the Western Tradition

Carleton University, Fall/Winter 2011-2012

Thursdays, 6:05 – 8:55pm, Room: 501 Southam (Fall only) Winter is TBA

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office: 3A49 Paterson Hall

Office hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:30 and right after the class (if needed)

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T.A.: TBA

### 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, research and lifestyle of which Plato would later speak as *philosophia* was born 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, appeared and 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 our 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

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 certain conception of the world and of the human soul. Becoming stoic, sceptic, cynic or epicurean therefore 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 philosophical activity.

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 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.

#### *Attendance is mandatory!*

*If you don't attend class on a regular basis, you won't be successful in this course.*

*Please take that into account before signing up.*

### III – REQUIRED BOOKS

The following books are available at **Haven Books**

43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), tel: 613-730-9888, info@havenbooks.ca:

*Philosophy Classics, Vol. 1: Ancient Philosophy*, sixth edition, Baird, F.& W. Kaufmann (ed.), Pearson, Prentice Hall, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-78385-4

*Marcus Aurelius, Meditations*, Translation by Gregory Hays, Modern Library, 2003, ISBN-10: 0812968255 ISBN-13: 978-0812968255.

N.B.: There are three copies of the textbook on reserve at the library and 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.

#### IV – OUTLINE and CALENDAR:

*Note: This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change (with notice).* At the end of each class, you will be informed of the readings required for our next meeting.

##### FALL TERM: *From the Presocratics to Plato*

- 1- 09/08 General introduction to the course; what is Greek philosophy?
- 2- 09/15 Geographical points of reference, historical points of reference; The ‘Greek Miracle’ theory: from *mythos* to *logos*; General features of the Presocratics; The Milesians: Thales
- 3- 09/22 The Milesians: Anaximander; Pythagoras; Xenophanes;
- 4- 09/29 Heraclitus, intro; Heraclitus on the cosmos
- 5- 10/06 Heraclitus on the logos and soul; Parmenides; Zeno of Elea.
- 6- 10/13 Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus; main features of the Sophistic movement
- 7- 10/20 The Sophists (Protagoras, Gorgias, Antiphon); **TEST 1, during the second part of the class**
- 8- 10/27 Socrates, intro. His definitional search “what is X?”
- 9- 11/03 Socrates, the Delphic oracle; the Socratic method (the *elenchus*)
- 10- 11/10 Socrates’ method (*aporia*, maieutics); Plato, introduction
- 11- 11/17 Plato, biography, the platonic corpus; Dialogue as a literary genre; Eros, death, the nature of the soul and *philosophia* in the Middle Dialogues (*Symposium*, *Phaedo*)
- 12- 11/24 Plato on politics, the *Republic* (the psycho-politic method of inquiry)
- 13- 12/01 The ‘three waves’; the Allegory of the cave; Plato and politics. [ESSAY 1 due]

**TEST 2: During the December examination period, December 8 - 21, 2011**

##### WINTER TERM: *From Aristotle to Plotinus*

- 1- 01/05 Plato’s ontology and epistemology
- 2- 01/12 Aristotle, intro; biography; the corpus;
- 3- 01/19 Aristotle, the *organon*; his metaphysics
- 4- 01/26 Aristotle’s theory of Substance; his theory of the four causes. Intro to the specificity of ancient ethics
- 5- 02/02 Aristotle’s ethics: the purpose of *NE*; *Eudaimonia* and examination of different ways of life
- 6- 02/09 Aristotle’s ethics: moral virtues, practical wisdom (*phronesis*), *metriopathy*
- 7- 02/16 Aristotle -end: How to become virtuous? [TEST 3 during the second part of the class];  
02/20-02/24 *Winter Break, no classes!*
- 8- 03/01 Intro to Hellenistic philosophy; Scepticism: Pyrrho, Sextus Empiricus
- 9- 03/08 Scepticism, end; The Cynics
- 10- 03/15 Epicureanism: physics, ‘canonics’, art of living
- 11- 03/22 Stoicism: logics, physics
- 12- 03/29 Stoicism: Ethics, psychology
- 13- 04/05 Neo-Platonism (Plotinus, Porphyry) [ESSAY 2 due]

**FINAL EXAMINATION: During the examination period, April 11 - 24, 2012**

#### V – COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- 12 quizzes and reading reviews:..... 20% (2% each, see description below)
- 3 Tests:..... 30% (10% each; to be held on Oct.20<sup>th</sup>, in the Dec. examination period, and on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>)
- 2 Essays:..... 30% (15% each, final due date: Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of the class)
- Final Examination:..... 20% (during the official examination period in April)

- The **Quizzes** (about 10 min. each, at the beginning of the class) and **Reading reviews** (critical responses to reading --one page each) simply aim to ensure you have completed the readings and reviewed your notes. Of the 12 quizzes/reading reviews, I will only take your 10 best marks into account. This means you can miss two of them without being penalised. *There will be no make-up quizzes/reading reviews!!!* You will be given notice one class in advance that a quiz is taking place next class or that a reading review is due (at the beginning of next class).

- Each of the **Tests** will be worth 10%, for a total of 30% of the overall grade. The first test takes place in the fall term and will cover all the material seen since the beginning of the course. The second test will cover all the material seen since the beginning of the term and will take place during the examination period. The third test will cover the material seen since the beginning of the winter term. Each of them will last one hour and twenty minutes.

- The **Essays** (8-10 pages; double spaced) are due by November 30<sup>th</sup> (Essay 1) and April 4<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. Please note that I will dock 2 marks per day for late assignments.

- The **Final Examination** (3 hours) will take place during the official examination period. The questions asked will involve all the material covered in the winter term.

If you have any **questions or concerns** do not hesitate to send me an e-mail me! 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- READING GROUP

As a complement to this course, I will be organising a *Greek Philosophy Reading Group* in the winter term (probably devoted to Epictetus' *Discourses*). It will take place right before our class at the philosophy department. This activity is not mandatory and all are welcome! The meetings will probably start on the second week of the winter semester.

## VII - 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.

ROMILLY, J. de, *Les Grands Sophistes dans l'Athènes de Périclès*, Paris, De Fallois, 1988. (Has been translated in English)

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

## **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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work.
- 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 Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more 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. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

## **Academic Accommodation:**

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC every term to have a Letter of Accommodation sent to the Instructor by their Coordinator. In addition, students are expected to confirm their need for accommodation with the Instructor no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm. If you require accommodations only for formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, you must request accommodations by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/holy-days/>

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

## **Important Dates:**

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

## **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 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
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a> 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735