



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

PI913 History of Ancient Greek Philosophy

Instructor:	Juan De Pascuale	Email:	depascualej@kenyon.edu
Home Institution:	Kenyon College	Office:	505 Main Bldg
Office Hours:	TBD		
Term:	28 May-28 June, 2018	Credits:	4
Classroom:	TBD	Teaching Assistant(s):	TBD
Class Hours:	Monday through Thursday, 10.40 am-12.40 pm		
Discussion Session:	2 hours each week, conducted by teaching assistant(s)		
Total Contact Hours:	66 contact hours (1 contact hour = 45 mins, 3000 mins in total)		
Required Texts (w/ ISBN):	<i>Ancient Philosophy (Philosophical Classics, Volume I)</i> , ed. Forrest Baird, Routledge. (6 th edition)		
Prerequisite:	N/A		



Course Overview

Ancient Greek philosophy is not only the basis of the Western and Arabic philosophical traditions, it is also of central importance for understanding Western culture in general, including literature, science, religion, politics, and art.

This course will be devoted to a survey of the central figures of the Ancient Greek tradition from the beginnings among pre-Socratic philosophers up to and including the later Hellenistic philosophers. After a survey of the poetic-philosophical thought of the most influential pre-Socratic philosophers (Thales, Heraclitus, and Parmenides), we will move on to a close study of selected dialogues of Plato and some of the most important and influential works of Plato’s student, Aristotle. The course will conclude with an examination of the key doctrines the Hellenistic philosophers of the Stoics, Epicureans, Skeptics, and the Neoplatonist Plotinus. The lectures will focus primarily on the metaphysical and ethical implications of this tradition.

Course Goals

- ✧ To provide a general introduction to the philosophical thought of the Ancient Greek philosophical tradition as well as a survey, analysis and evaluation of many of the key teachings of that tradition.
- ✧ To display the teachings of Ancient Greek philosophy in their own historical and cultural context while at the same time making occasional reference to their impact on contemporary thought.
- ✧ To identify and explain the philosophical vocabulary of the Ancient Greek tradition.
- ✧ To identify and explain key philosophical teachings of the Ancient Greek tradition, particularly in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.
- ✧ To penetrate some key issues in Ancient Greek philosophy with critical philosophical depth.
- ✧ To provide students with the foundation for further study of Plato and Aristotle and the philosophical tradition that followed.
- ✧ And perhaps more importantly, I hope the course to provide students the opportunity to think deeply about Ancient Geek Philosophy and its importance as a gateway to understanding the essence of Western culture generally.

Grading Policy

There will be two exams, a midterm exam and a final exam. Each is worth 45% of your final grade. The remaining 10% is for oral participation and/or use of office hours.

Mid-term Exam	45%
Final Exam	45%
Oral Participation	10%



Grading Scale

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Course Schedule

Date	Lecture
28-May	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The professor’s biography and areas of expertise</p> <p>Review syllabus in detail</p> <p>The ambiguity of “wisdom”</p> <p>The Ancient Greek World</p>
29-May	<p>The Pre-Socratics: The Milesians & Heraclitus</p> <p>Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes and Xenophanes seek the material principle of the cosmos and arrive at different conclusions. Heraclitus distills the essence of their “naturalism” in his radical view.</p> <p>Who are the pre-Socratics</p> <p>Fragments and sources</p> <p>From myth to Philosophy/Science</p> <p>What is Philosophy?</p> <p>Being and Becoming</p> <p>Monism and Pluralism</p>
30-May	<p>The Pre-Socratics: Parmenides</p> <p>Parmenides poses a fundamental challenge to all naturalistic inquiry when he denies the intelligibility of change</p>
31-May	<p>The Pre-Socratics: Responses to Parmenides</p> <p>Late pre-Socratic “naturalists” Empedocles, Anaxagoras, and Democritus respond to the challenge of Parmenides</p>



Date	Lecture
4-Jun	<p>Plato and Socrates: Conflicting images of philosophy</p> <p>Plato the man and his writings Two rival conceptions of philosophy The Socratic Method: gadfly and midwife Socrates as the model philosopher</p>
5-Jun	<p>Plato's Apology: Philosophy as a way of life</p> <p>The historic significance of the Apology Philosophy as a way of life</p>
6-Jun	<p>Plato's Crito: The Paradox of Civic Virtue</p> <p>In the Apology Socrates seems to privilege authenticity above civic loyalty. In the Crito, we see him seemingly defending the opposite view, that we should never disobey the law. Can we resolve this tension in Socrates' thought as Plato portrays it?</p>
7-Jun	<p>Plato's Metaphysics: The Theory of Forms</p> <p>The Allegory of the Cave Platonic Dualism Phaedo 73c-79a Republic 596a-597e Parmenides 128e-135c</p>
11-Jun	<p>Plato's Metaphysics: Body and Soul</p> <p>We look at the relationship between body and soul as Plato understood it. We shall also consider his view that the soul is immortal.</p> <p>Phaedo, esp. 63e-84b</p>
12-Jun	<p>Plato's Theory of Knowledge: The Theory of Recollection</p> <p>Plato's account of the difference between knowledge and belief, and his rejection of relativism.</p> <p>The Allegory of the Cave Meno 80a-86d; 96d-99e Theatetus 200d-201 c; 166e-172b and 177c-179b</p>



Date	Lecture
13-Jun	Aristotle: Metaphysics Aristotle the man, his works, his influence Theory of matter, form and substance Being and its categories Physics Book 1-11 Parts of Animals Book I Metaphysics Book V, chap. 8 Categories 5
14-Jun	Aristotle: Metaphysics Account of the “four causes”: material, formal, efficient, and final. Physics ii Parts of Animals I
18-Jun	Aristotle: The Metaphysics of Body and Soul Aristotle’s theory of human nature as presented in De Anima compared to Plato’s account. De Anima I 1; ii 1-3
19-Jun	Aristotle’s Ethics: Happiness and Human Function We look at Aristotle’s teleological view that human nature is organized in a particular way and designed to function in a particular way so that when it performs well, according to its nature, a good and happy life is achieved. Nicomachean Ethics Book 1 and 10
20-Jun	Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy The influence of Socrates The Hellenistic Schools Fragments Philosophy as a way of life
21-Jun	The Sceptics
25-Jun	The Epicureans: Epicurus
26-Jun	Stoicism: Epictetus
27-Jun	Marcus Aurelius
28-Jun	Review: The influence of Ancient Greek Philosophy