



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

PI913 History of Ancient Greek Philosophy

Instructor:	Juan De Pascuale	Email:	depascualej@kenyon.edu
Instructor's Home Institution:	Kenyon College	Office:	TBD
Office Hours:	TBD		
Term:	May 27-June 27, 2019	Credits:	4 units
Classroom:	TBD	Teaching Assistant(s):	TBD
Class Hours:	Monday through Thursday, 10:40 am-12:40 pm		
Discussion Sessions:	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 (with ISBN):	<i>Ancient Philosophy (Philosophical Classics, Volume I)</i> , ed. Forrest Baird, Routledge. (6 th edition)		
Prerequisite:	Open to freshmen		



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 of 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 Greek 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.

Midterm Examination	45%
Final Examination	45%
Attendance and Oral participation	10%

Grading Scale is as follows:

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1
≤59	F (Failure)	0



Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Day	Lecture	Readings
Day 1	Introduction to the professor and the course	No Reading
Day 2	The Pre-Socratics: The Milesians & Heraclitus	<i>Ancient Philosophy</i> , Baird (from now on, Baird) p. 1-21
Day 3	The Pre-Socratics: Parmenides	Baird, pp. 22-42 Electronic Reserve: Lao Tzu, <i>Tao Te Ching</i> 1,2,11,14,16,25,32,40,42,70,71, 81
Day 4	Plato and Socrates: Conflicting Images of Philosophy	Baird, pp. 43-70
Day 5	Plato's Apology: Philosophy as a way of life	Baird, <i>The Apology</i> , pp. 82-91
Day 6	Plato's Crito: The Paradox of Civic Virtue	Baird, <i>Crito</i> , pp. 99-107
Day 7	Plato's Metaphysics: The Theory of Forms	Baird, Republic, p. 199- 290 (look especially at drawing on p. 284) Parmenides p, 290-297
Day 8	Plato's Metaphysics: Body and Soul	Baird, <i>Phaedo</i> , p. 108- 150
Day 9	Plato's Theory of Knowledge: The Theory of Recollection	Baird, <i>Meno</i> , pp. 151-177; <i>Theatetus</i> , pp 297- 308
Day 10	Aristotle: Metaphysics: Theory of Substance	Baird, <i>Categories</i> , pp. 319-325; <i>Physics</i> , pp. 334-344; <i>Metaphysics</i> , pp. 344-371
Day 11	Aristotle: Metaphysics: The Four Causes	Baird, <i>Physics</i> Book II, p. 334-344 Metaphysics BK1 & Xii, p. 344-371
Day 12	***Midterm Examination***	



Day 13	Aristotle: The Metaphysics of Body and Soul	Baird, <i>On the Soul</i> , pp. 371-378
Day 14	Aristotle's Ethics: Happiness and Human Function	Baird, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , pp. 378-451
Day 15	Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy	Baird, pp. 463-467
Day 16	The Epicureans: Epicurus & Lucretius	Baird: PP. 467-505; 491-505
Day 17	Stoicism: Epictetus & Marcus Aurelius	Baird: pp. 518-530; 531-540
Day 18	Plotinus and Neo-Platonism	Baird: pp. 546
Day 19	Review: The Influence of Ancient Greek Philosophy	No Reading
Day 20	**Final Examination**	