



Shanghai Jiao Tong University

PI913 History of Ancient Greek Philosophy

Instructor Information	TBD		
Term	June 28, 2021 - July 23, 2021	Credits	4 units
Class Hours	Monday through Friday, 120 mins per teaching day		
Discussion Sessions	2.5 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)	<p>ARISTOTLE, <i>The Metaphysics</i>. Trans. by H. Tredennick (Cambridge (Mass.) and London: Harvard University Press, Loeb Classical Library, 1935).</p> <p>MARIJA GIMBUTAS, <i>The Language of the Goddess</i>. Foreword by J. Campbell (London: Thames & Hudson, 2001).</p> <p>PLATO, <i>Five Dialogues</i>. Trans. by G. M. A. Grube (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002).</p> <p>PLATO, <i>The Republic</i>. Trans. by Griffith (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).</p> <p>SOPHOCLES, <i>Theban Plays</i>. Trans. by P. Meineck and P. Woodruff (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003).</p> <p><i>The Texts of Early Greek Philosophy. The Complete Fragments and Selected Testimonies of the Major Presocratics</i> (2 vol. set). Translated and edited by D. W. Graham (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).</p>		
Prerequisite	Open to freshmen		
The course might be moved to online delivery due to COVID-19 pandemic. Students will be notified once the decision is made.			



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 Plato and Aristotle. After a survey of the poetic-philosophical thought of the most influential pre-Socratic philosophers (Thales, Anaximander, 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 lectures will focus primarily on the metaphysical and political implications of this tradition.

Course Goals

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. To identify and explain the philosophical vocabulary of the Ancient Greek tradition;
4. To identify and explain key philosophical teachings of the Ancient Greek tradition, particularly in metaphysics, epistemology, and politics;
5. To penetrate some key issues in Ancient Greek philosophy with critical philosophical depth;
6. To provide students with the foundation for further study of Plato and Aristotle and the philosophical tradition that followed;
7. 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	40%
Final Examination	40%
Attendance and Oral participation	20%

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



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings
Day 1	Introductory remarks and discussion	No reading
Day 2	THE PRE-SOCRATICS: THE MILESIANS, PARMENIDES & HERACLITUS	The Texts of Early Greek Philosophy, Chapters on Thales, Anaximander and Heraclitus.
Day 3	PLATO	Apology
Day 4	PLATO	Phædo
Day 5		Film: The Matrix
Day 6	PLATO	Republic, Book I
Day 7	PLATO	Republic, Book II-III
Day 8	PLATO	Republic, Book VI-VII
Day 9		Reading Day
Day 10	Midterm Examination	No reading
Day 11	PLATO	Republic, Book X
Day 12	SOPHOCLES	Oedipus Tyrannus
Day 13	SOPHOCLES	Oedipus Tyrannus
Day 14	SOPHOCLES	Antigone
Day 15		Film: Oedipus Rex
Day 16	MARIJA GIMBUTAS	The Language of the Goddess
Day 17	ARISTOTLE	Metaphysics
Day 18	ARISTOTLE	Metaphysics
Day 19		Reading Day
Day 20	Final Examination	No reading