

## **Ancient Philosophy**

### **DRAFT**

(PHHS 1050)

Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology

Fall 2023

Instructor: James Kintz, Ph.D.

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### **Meeting Times:**

Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:40am-11:00am

### **Meeting Place:**

TBA

### **Office Hours:**

Fridays from 11:30pm-1:30pm, and by appointment

### **Required Texts:**

- *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*, Second Edition, edited by C.D.C. Reeve and Patrick Lee Miller. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 2015. ISBN: 978-0872208308. Price: \$15.99 on Amazon.

### **Recommended Texts**

- *A Companion to Ancient Philosophy*, edited by Mary Louise Gill and Pierre Pellegrin (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2006).
- *The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy*, edited by Christopher Shields (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2003).
- Adamson, Peter, *Classical Philosophy: A History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, Volume 1 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).
- Adamson, Peter, *Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps*, Volume 2 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).
- Emilsson, Eyjolfur L., *Plotinus* (New York: Routledge, 2017).
- Gottlieb, Anthony, *The Dream of Reason: A History of Western Philosophy from the Greeks to the Renaissance* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2016).
- Meinwald, Constance, *Plato* (New York: Routledge, 2016).
- Shields, Christopher, *Aristotle* (New York: Routledge, 2014).

### **Course Description:**

From the GTU Catalogue:

“This course will explore the history of philosophy in the ancient world from the pre-Socratics to Plotinus. The primary focus of the course will be on Plato and Aristotle, but we will also examine the work of select Greek and Roman Stoics, as well as the developments of Plotinus and the influence of Neo-Platonism in late antiquity/the early medieval period. Format: lecture/discussion. Evaluation method: participation, midterm, final, short paper. Intended audience: M.A.Ph., M.A.Th.”

In this class we will explore some of the major thinkers from the ancient period of philosophy. There are many reasons why studying historical philosophy is important, especially philosophy from the ancient world. First, many of the theories that ancient thinkers formulated are both intellectually stimulating and intrinsically interesting, making this period of philosophy worth studying for its own sake. As we will see,

ancient thinkers are asking some of the most important questions that we can ask (e.g., What is the nature of reality? What is knowledge, and how do we know when we've achieved it? What does it mean to be good?), and the answers that they developed are still relevant today. Moreover, studying ancient philosophy is important because no culture or theory exists in a vacuum. Our own historically-situated culture is a result of a very long tradition of ideas and practices that can be traced back to the ancient world, and learning the origins of these ideas and practices will help us to understand our place in history, as well as the intellectual and social traditions that we have inherited. Furthermore, much of the work that is being done in contemporary philosophy is indebted to thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle, thinkers who were themselves heavily influenced by their predecessors, so we benefit philosophically from coming to understand the influence that these thinkers have on our own intellectual endeavors. Finally, as with any philosophy course, learning how to critically evaluate the arguments of some of the greatest thinkers in history helps us to sharpen our own thinking, and develops cognitive and communication skills that will help us in all walks of life.

This course will progress historically, tracing important intellectual developments through the thought of a variety of thinkers from the ancient world. While majority of the class will focus on select works of Plato and Aristotle, we will also explore the thought of their philosophical predecessors, as well as those who came after them in the Greek and Roman worlds. We will conclude the course with a study of Neoplatonism in late antiquity. While all of the philosophers that we will study were important in their own day, and while they each present valuable theories that are worth studying in their own right, we will also pay special attention to the ways in which the ideas put forward by these ancient thinkers continue to be influential in the present day.

**Course Objectives:**

The primary goals of this course are to better understand various thinkers and schools of thought in ancient philosophy, as well as the ways in which key ideas influenced later thinkers (including thinkers in the present day).

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Identify and summarize key terms and concepts in ancient philosophy.
- Explain the significance of ancient philosophy to the contemporary world, as well as its ongoing importance in the philosophical discussion.
- Develop the ability to evaluate and critically assess philosophical arguments.
- Demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills.

**Course Format:**

Lecture and discussion. Please come to class ready to discuss the assigned materials. This will likely require approximately 4-6 hours of reading per week.

**Schedule:**

<b>THE PRESOCRATICS AND THE PROJECT OF PHILOSOPHY</b>	
September 5 (Tuesday)	Introduction
September 8 (Friday)	The Pre-Socratics and the Search for the <i>Arche</i> , part 1  Recommended: <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , Part 1 Introduction <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 1 Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapters 1-4

	Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i> , chapters 1-2 <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 1
September 12 (Tuesday)	The Pre-Socratics and the Search for the <i>Arche</i> , part 2  Readings: Pre-Socratics, <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 15-17 (Parmenides), 20-22 (Zeno), 31-34 (Democritus)  Recommended: Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapters 5-7 Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i> , chapters 3-5 <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 3 <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , pp. 20-24 Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapter 8 Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i> , chapter 8
	<b>PLATO</b>
September 15 (Friday)	Socrates on the Good Life  Readings: <i>Euthyphro</i> , <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 52-61 <i>The Apology</i> , <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 62-77  Recommended: Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapters 14-15 <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 9 <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 3 Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapter 16 Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i> , chapter 10 <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 6
September 19 (Tuesday)	Socrates and Sophism  Readings: <i>Protagoras</i> , excerpts, <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 86-90 <i>Gorgias</i> , available at <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/gorgias.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/gorgias.html</a>  Recommended: Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapter 17 <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 2
September 22 (Friday)	The Nature of Reality, part 1  Readings: Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 112-143  Recommended: Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i> , chapter 20 <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 11

September 26 (Tuesday)	<p>The Nature of Reality, part 2</p> <p>Readings: Plato, <i>Phaedo</i>, IRAGRP, pp. 112-143</p> <p>Recommended: <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 4</p>
September 29 (Friday)	<p>The Nature of Reality, part 3</p> <p>Readings: Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books I-III</p> <p>Recommended: Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books IV-V</p>
October 3 (Tuesday)	<p>The Nature of Reality, part 4</p> <p>Readings: Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books V-VII</p> <p>Recommended: Plato, <i>Republic</i>, Books VIII-X <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, "Plato: Metaphysics," pp. 75-99 Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 22 Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i>, chapter 11 <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 12</p>
October 6 (Friday)	<p><i>Eros</i> and Beauty, part 1</p> <p>Readings: <i>Symposium</i> (available at <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/symposium.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/symposium.html</a>)</p> <p>Recommended: Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 27</p>
October 10 (Tuesday)	<p><i>Eros</i> and Beauty, part 2</p> <p>Readings: <i>Phaedrus</i> (available at <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html</a>)</p> <p>Recommended Meinwald, <i>Plato</i>, chapter 4</p>
October 13 (Friday)	<p>Plato on the Nature of Knowledge, part 1</p> <p>Readings: <i>Meno</i>, IRAGRP, pp. 91-111</p>

	<p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 18  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 5</p>
October 17 (Tuesday)	<p>Plato on Nature of Knowledge, part 2</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Theaetetus</i>, available at <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/theatu.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/theatu.html</a></p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 19  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 7</p>
	<b>ARISTOTLE</b>
October 20 (Friday)	<p>The Science of Being <i>qua</i> Being</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Metaphysics</i>, Book I, (available at <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/metaphysics.html</a>)  <i>Metaphysics</i>, 4.1-3, 7.1-3, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 291-304</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 29, 32  Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i>, chapter 12  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapters 13 and 18  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 8</p>
October 24 (Tuesday)	<b>No class – Reading Week</b>
October 27 (Friday)	<b>No class – Reading Week</b>
October 31 (Tuesday)	<p>Substance</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Categories</i>, 1-5, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 255-258</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 30  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 14</p>
November 3 (Friday)	<p>Matter and Form</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Physics</i>, 1.1; 2, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 271-280</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapters 33-34  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 15</p>

November 7 (Tuesday)	<p>Potentiality and Actuality</p> <p>Readings:  <i>De Anima</i>, 1.1, 4; 2.1-4, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 281-290  <i>Metaphysics</i>, 12.6-9, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 304-309</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 39  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 9</p>
November 10 (Friday)	<p>Aristotle on Knowledge, part 1</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Posterior Analytics</i>, 1.1-4; 2.19, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 265-270</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 31</p>
November 14 (Tuesday)	<p>Aristotle on Knowledge, part 2</p> <p>Readings:  <i>De Anima</i>, 3.3-5, 10-11, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 288-291</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 35  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 17  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 11</p>
November 17 (Friday)	<p>Aristotle on the Good Life, part 1</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, Books 1-3 <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 310-328</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 37  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 19</p>
November 21 (Tuesday)	<p>Aristotle on the Good Life, part 2</p> <p>Readings:  <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, Books 5-7, 10, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 328-344  <i>Politics</i>, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 344-356</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Classical Philosophy</i>, chapter 38, 40  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 10  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 20</p>
November 24 (Friday)	<p><b>No class – Thanksgiving</b></p>

<b>HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN PHILOSOPHY</b>	
November 28 (Tuesday)	<p>Epicurus and Epicureanism</p> <p>Readings:  Letter to Herodotus, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 358-365  Letter to Menoeceus, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 365-367  <i>The Principal Doctrines</i>, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 367-369</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds</i>, chapters 4-6  Gottlieb, <i>The Dream of Reason</i>, chapter 13  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 25  <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 12</p>
December 1 (Friday)	<p>Cicero</p> <p>Readings:  Academia, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 385-386  On Fate, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 386-390  On the Nature of the Gods, pp. 390-394</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds</i>, chapter 17  <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i>, chapter 21</p>
December 5 (Tuesday)	<p>Lucretius</p> <p>Readings:  <i>On the Nature of Things</i>, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 396-424</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds</i>, chapter 7</p>
December 8 (Friday)	<p>Epictetus</p> <p>Readings:  <i>The Handbook</i>, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 444-453</p> <p>Recommended:  Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds</i>, chapter 13</p>
<b>NEO-PLATONISM</b>	
December 12 (Tuesday)	<p>Plotinus</p> <p><i>Ennead</i> 1.2, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 481-484  <i>Ennead</i> 1.3, provided by instructor  <i>Ennead</i> 1.6, <i>IRAGRP</i>, pp. 484-489</p> <p>Recommended:</p>

	Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds</i> , chapters 29 and 32 <i>A Companion to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 30
December 15 (Friday)	Plotinus  Readings: <i>Ennead</i> 5.1, <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 489-495 <i>Enneads</i> 5.2-5, 8-9 (provided by instructor) <i>Ennead</i> 6.9, <i>IRAGRP</i> , pp. 495-501  Recommended: Adamson, <i>Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds</i> , chapters 30-31 <i>The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy</i> , chapter 15

***\*Readings and assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Also, reading assignments may be revised based on student interest.***

***\*\*While students are required to read all works listed under “primary literature,” they are not required to read the works listed under “secondary literature.” Insofar as these additional readings will help to generate discussion, however, students are encouraged to read the secondary literature as well.***

### **Assessment:**

#### Attendance/Participation: 10%

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate in class discussion. Concerning attendance, you can have up to 2 unexcused absences without losing any points. However, for each additional unexcused absence beyond these 2 classes, you will lose 50% of the attendance grade per missed class. If you miss any further classes after losing all of the attendance points (which would occur if you miss a total of 5 classes), you may receive in an F in the course (this will be at the discretion of the instructor, in conversation with the student). Regarding the participation grade, the score will be adjusted if a student fails to demonstrate respect for peers, instructors, and guests. Actions that may negatively impact the participation grade include use of electronic devices for purposes not related to class, talking while others are speaking, etc. The participation grade will also be adjusted if the quality of participation indicates a lack of preparation (i.e., failure to read assigned materials).

#### Midterm Exam: 30%

This will be a take-home style exam in which you will provide essay responses to a set of questions provided by the instructor. You will be tested for comprehension of reading assignments, understanding of the important concepts, and the ability to reconstruct, summarize, and critically evaluate the arguments that we examine in class.

#### Final Exam: 30%

The format and purpose of the final exam will be identical to that of the midterm.

#### Conference-length Paper: 30%

This will be a 3000-word paper on a topic of your choice (as long as that topic is connected to the class). The goal is to write a paper that could be submitted to, and, ideally, accepted at, a philosophy conference for presentation.



*\*In general, late work will not be accepted. If there is a good reason for work to be submitted late, then you can discuss an extension with your instructor, and if the instructor gives approval for a late submission **prior to** the deadline there will be no penalty. Without prior approval, however, there will be a late penalty for all work turned in past the deadline (-10% for initial late submission, then -5% per day up to 1 week, at which point the assignment will no longer be accepted).*

**Grading**

A = 94-100	C+ = 77-79
A- = 90-93	C = 74-76
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-73
B = 84-86	D = 60-69
B- = 80-83	F = <60