

Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1110-401/CLST 1501-401)

Spring 2023: 1.11.23-5.9.23

Instructor: Matthew Solomon

Meeting Place: TBD

Meeting Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:45-3:14 PM

Email: somatt@sas.upenn.edu

Office Hours:

Location: TBD

Time: TBD (and by appointment)

Class Description:

This course is an introduction to Ancient Greek Philosophy. This class not only spans several hundred years, but all kinds of philosophical topics. We start with the Pre-Socratics in their quest to understand what everything is made out of, and how change can occur in the world. We then examine Plato on knowledge and justice before examining Aristotle's view of the good life and physics. Near the end of the semester we will examine the Epicureans and Stoics, who have distinct ethical theories founded on different metaphysical theories of the gods and the universe. However, part of what we can learn from this study is from what is left out from their philosophies. In examining the writings, writers, and readers, we will examine what we today want our field of philosophy and topics like justice be about.

Here is a rundown of the topics:

Week 1: Early Pre-Socratic Natural Philosophers

Week 2: Pre-Socratics and Raising Problems for Knowledge

Week 3: Pre-Socratic Atomists

Week 4: Pythagorean Philosophy

Week 5: Early Plato

Week 6: Plato on Justice

Week 7: Plato on Knowledge, the Cave, and the State

Week 8: Aristotle Matter and the Soul

Week 9: SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 10: Aristotle's Physics and Prime Mover

Week 11: Aristotle on the Good Life

Week 12: Aristotle on Virtues and the State

Week 13: Epicureanism

Week 14: Stoicism

Week 15: Ancient Skepticism

Week 16: Paper Writing and Semester in Review

Important Dates:

Jan 16th: MLK Day (No Class!)

Jan 18th: Write Anything Due 10:00PM

Jan 24th: Course Selection Period Ends

Feb 1st: Argument Reconstruction Due 10:00PM

Feb 15th: Grades Returned (Argument Reconstruction)

Feb 20th: Drop Period Ends

March 4th-12th: Spring Break!

March 15th: Midterm Paper Due 10:00PM

March 17th: Grade Type Change Deadline

March 27th: Last Day to Withdraw from a Course

March 29th: Grades Returned (Midterm Paper)

May 3rd: Term Paper Due 10:00PM

May 9th: Spring Term Ends

Course Requirements and Grading:

In Class Quizzes: 30%

These are quizzes that occur each Wednesday class period that will be done for 10 minutes during class. There are 14 quizzes, but the lowest 4 will be dropped. Thus, each quiz is 3%. Quizzes are about the assigned reading for the day, except for the first quiz, which is over logic that we learn in class in addition to the readings. Depending on participation, part of this grade may be changed to a participation grade.

Write-Anything: Required, but not graded.

Write and submit ~2 pages about literally anything. It has to be your original writing for this assignment.

Argument Reconstruction: 15%

Argument options will be given, and you will choose one. This will be a 2 page document you submit in which you analyze and reconstruct an argument from a reading. I will spend a few classes developing the skills and understanding needed to succeed on this assignment.

Midterm Paper: 25%

Paper topics will be given, and you will choose one. This will be about 5 pages in length, and I will spend several class sessions explaining how to write this kind of paper.

Term Paper: 30%

Paper topics will be given, and you will choose one. This will be about 5-7 pages in length, and I will spend several class sessions explaining how to write this kind of paper.

Readings will all be available on Canvas. There is no required text that is not free and provided!

Page numbers for readings on this syllabus are from the Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy, Second Ed., by Patrick Lee Miller (Ed.), C.D.C. Reeve (Ed.), and Lloyd P. Gerson.

They are for reference, should you want a book with nearly all course readings in it.

Various Policies:

Email:

Please make the emails that you send me something I can answer with a yes or no. This is because it is nearly impossible to have a good philosophical conversation by email. Nonetheless, I would love to have longer philosophical discussions with you or talk about the course in person or on Zoom. In addition, please allow 24 hours for me to respond to any given email.

Feedback:

I want to be a good teacher, and you all can help me improve. You can give me personal feedback, fill out an anonymous feedback form I make, and thoroughly fill out the end-of-semester course evaluation.

Grading and Appeals:

Please give me two weeks to return any assignment - I want to take time to grade well. That being said, I can make mistakes. If you think I have made a grading mistake and would like to appeal for a grade revision, please email me a paragraph explaining the situation. I will then contact you and work with you through the appeal process.

Office Hours:

I hold office hours on Zoom from TBD every TBD. Office hours are a great way to discuss the class and its content. If this time does not work for you, please email me and I will gladly set up another time to meet with you. While I do want to help you succeed in the class, I do not read drafts of papers. Reading drafts is not very helpful for you. Instead, we can talk about the content of the paper in office hours. During such a meeting I will also read up to one paragraph if you have a writing question.

Resources:

College life can be hard. Thankfully, the University has numerous people ready and willing to help support you throughout your academic career. As your instructor, I am a resource for this class, but I am quite limited in my ability to help in other areas. If there is any sort of accommodation you might need, please let me know. However, for the sake of getting better support for more of life's challenges, please note these useful campus resources:

1. **Student Disability Services (SDS):** If you have any disability that may hinder learning here at UPenn, SDS is there to help.
2. **The Tutoring Center:** If you would like a professional UPenn tutor to help you in any subject or class, The Tutoring Center can match you with a tutor.

3. **Advisors:** If you need guidance in your academic career at UPenn, numerous advisors are there to help.
4. **Mark's Family Writing Center:** Writing well is difficult. The Writing Center can help you learn how to write better by helping examine your drafts and giving advice. If English is not your first language or on par with your first language I further encourage you to visit the Writing Center for your papers.
5. **Weingarten Learning Resources Center:** If you find yourself struggling in time management or reading/studying skills, Weingarten is there to help.
6. **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** Studying is hard enough without the non-academic struggles in life. CAPS can help in many ways, and the issue need not be severe before visiting CAPS.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes or additions to the will be announced in Class and/or on Canvas.

Class Schedule

Week #	Date	Reading/Topic	Assignments	Other Important Dates
1	Jan 11	Arguments and Logic		
	Jan 13	Pre-Socratics - Milesian Monists: Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes <i>IRAGRP 1-4</i>	Quiz 1	
2	Jan 16	***NO CLASS***		
	Jan 18	Pre-Socratics - Sophistry, Change, and Knowledge Pre-Socratics - Xenophanes, Empedocles, Anaxagoras <i>IRAGRP 8-9; 22-27; 28-30</i>	WRITE ANYTHING DUE Quiz 2	
3	Jan 23	Pre-Socratics - Heraclitus, Parmenides, Protagoras <i>IRAGRP 9-14; 14-17; 34-35</i>		

	Jan 25	Pre-Socratics - Leucippus & Democritus <i>IRAGRP 30-34</i>	Quiz 3	
4	Jan 30	Introduction to Pythagorean Philosophy Pythagoreans - Pythagoras, Philolaus of Croton, Aesara of Lucania <i>IRAGRP 4-8</i> <i>History of Women Philosophers 19-26</i>		
	Feb 1	Pythagorean Women Philosophers -Theano II & Perictione I <i>History of Women Philosophers 32-38; 41-53</i>	ARGUMENT RECONSTRUCTION DUE Quiz 4	
5	Feb 6	Introduction to Plato Early Plato - Apology & Meno <i>IRAGRP 67 (from 24b)-70; 91-103 (87c2)</i>		
	Feb 8	Early Plato - Meno <i>IRAGRP 103 (87c2) -111</i> Paper Writing	Quiz 5	
6	Feb 13	Philosophical Content and Genre in Plato Plato's Republic		
	Feb 15	Plato's Republic: Justice <i>Book I: 157 (343d1)-160;</i> <i>Book II: 161 (358e)-163 (362c);</i> <i>Book III: 169 (414b9-415d2);</i> <i>Book IV: 172 (428d)-176 (435c1),</i> <i>180 (441c4)-182 (444b9)</i>	Quiz 6 Grades Returned	

7	Feb 20	Plato's Republic: Knowledge, the Cave, and the State <i>Book V: 195 (477e8)-197, Book VI: 202 (504e3)-203 (506a10), 204 (508c4)-206; Book VII, 206-210 (521b12)</i>		Drop Period Ends
	Feb 22	Value Analysis and Moral Attention: What They Say and What They Leave Out	Quiz 7	
8	Feb 27	Aristotle's Projects and Responses to his Predecessors Aristotle - Solving the Parmenidean Challenge <i>IRAGRP Categories 255-259</i>		
	Mar 1	Aristotle - The Soul <i>IRAGRP De Anima Book 2.1-4 283-287</i>	Quiz 8	
9	Mar 6	***SPRING BREAK***		
	Mar 8	***SPRING BREAK***		
10	Mar 13	Aristotle's Physics and Theology Aristotle - Physics <i>IRAGRP Physics 271-281</i>		
	Mar 15	Aristotle - Prime Mover <i>IRAGRP Metaphysics Book XII to 1071b24, 1072b25-32 (304-305; 306-307); Physics VIII.1-6 (PDF)</i>	MIDTERM PAPER DUE Quiz 9	
11	Mar 20	Aristotle's Approach to Ethics and the Good Life Aristotle - Eudaimonia <i>IRAGRP NE Book I 310-316</i>		

	Mar 22	Aristotle - Character Virtue <i>IRAGRP NE Book II</i>	Quiz 10	
12	Mar 27	Aristotle - Intellectual Virtue <i>IRAGRP NE VI (330-335)</i>		Last Day to Withdraw from Course
	Mar 29	Aristotle - The Best Life and Shaping the Polis <i>IRAGRP NE X (338-344)</i>	Quiz 11 Grades Returned	
13	Apr 3	Epicureanism - Pleasure and Desire Epicurean Metaphysics <i>IRAGRP Letter to Herodotus</i> 357-365; <i>Cicero's On Fate</i> 22-48 (p.386-388); <i>Lucretius' On the Nature of</i> <i>Things</i> 2.217-244 (pp.402); <i>Cicero's On the Nature of the</i> <i>Gods</i> 1.43-56, 1.69-104, 2.12-86 (pp. 390-393)		
	Apr 5	Epicurean Ethics <i>IRAGRP Letter to Menoeceus</i> 365-367; <i>The Principal Doctrines</i> 367-370; <i>Lucretius' On the Nature of</i> <i>Things</i> 3.830-1076 (pp.408-409);	Quiz 12	
14	Apr 10	Stoic Life and Nature <i>IRAGRP Diogenes Laertius:</i> <i>Introduction and Physics</i> 371-374; <i>Cleanthes' Hymn to Zeus</i> 379-380; <i>Cicero's On Fate</i> 28-44 (pp.388-390);		

	Apr 12	Stoic Ethics <i>IRAGRP Epictetus' The Handbook #1-30 (pp.444-448);</i> <i>Diogenes Laertius 7.84-113 (pp.374-376);</i> <i>Seneca's On the Happy Life 425-429;</i> <i>Seneca's Moral Letters to Lucilius Letters 76 and 66 (pp.429-431);</i> <i>Seneca's On Providence 1.1-3.4 (pp.434-438)</i>	Quiz 13	
15	Apr 17	Skepticism: Academic and Pyrrhonian Pyrrho the Skeptic <i>IRAGRP "Pyrrho of Elis" 380-383</i>		
	Apr 19	Pyrrhonian Skepticism <i>IRAGRP "Sextus Empiricus" and "Outlines of Pyrrhonism" 465-475</i>	Quiz 14	
16	Apr 24	Paper Writing Vol. II		
	Apr 26	Semester in Review		LAST DAY OF CLASSES
17	May 3		FINAL PAPER DUE	