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Fall 2017
Philosophy 305-001
M,W 12:00-1:15
Educ. 642

PHILOSOPHY 305 ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Text: *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*, 4th ed., Cohen, Curd, Reeve (eds.)
Web: <http://coas.boisestate.edu/troark> (**not a Blackboard site**)

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

- **Content goals:** acquire a durable understanding of influential views held by the ancient Greeks concerning human nature, knowledge, the structure of reality, and the good life.
- **Skills goals:** strengthen analytical reading, argument (re-)construction and evaluation, and written and oral communication skills, working with classical texts in and out of class.
- **Dispositional goals:** develop intellectual receptivity to modes of thinking and expression that differ strongly from our native modes; willingness to countenance and seriously consider views that might appear to be naïve or otherwise obviously defective.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Class-prep questions** posted on the course site to aid your reading and give us a starting-point for class discussion. Responses may be submitted either by email or in hard-copy; in either form, only responses received by the beginning of class are eligible for credit. **Bring an extra copy of your responses to class**, whether on paper or a laptop, to refer to and revise in the course of class discussion. Since an important part of your job is to determine through discussion how good your answers are, I typically will not return the copy you submit. However, it can be helpful to receive some direct feedback on the adequacy of your response, and so I will return **up to three** of your submissions with comments and corrections – **please indicate clearly on your paper that you want it to be returned**. Credit for prep questions is awarded on the basis of the following criterion: *if your responses provide clear evidence of a good-faith effort to answer all of the questions to the best of your ability, you'll receive full-credit; otherwise, you'll receive no credit*. There will be 25 sets of prep questions. Grades are assigned as follows:

25 = A+	22 = B+	19 = C+	16 = D+	<14 = F
24 = A	21 = B	18 = C	15 = D	
23 = A-	20 = B-	17 = C-	14 = D-	

Prep questions constitute **20%** of the final course grade.

- B. **Short Assessments.** Approximately five in number. These include brief quizzes and other in-class work of various kinds, designed to reinforce understanding of central concepts, diagnose potential points of confusion, and offer skills-building opportunities. Unlike the prep questions, these are graded for correctness. I'll drop your lowest score. The remaining assessments constitute **20%** of the final course grade.
- C. **Exams.** You will be examined on each of the three divisions under III below. The first exam is in-class, the second take-home, and the third in-class at the scheduled time of the final exam. In determining exam marks, a premium will be placed on correctness, completeness, clarity of expression, conciseness, and philosophical sophistication. The first exam is worth 10% of the final course grade, while the second and third are worth 25% each, for a total of **60%**.

Final grades are calculated according to the University's Grading System (see p. 34 of the 2017-18 catalog).

III. COURSE SCHEDULE (see Prep Questions page for date-specific assignments.)

Pre-Socratics (ca. 3 weeks)

Milesians
Pythagoreans
Heraclitus
Parmenides

Plato (ca. 6 weeks)

Euthyphro
Apology
Protagoras
Phaedo
Republic V, VI, VII
Parmenides
Timaeus
Philebus (time permitting)

Aristotle (ca. 6 weeks)

Categories
Physics I, II
Metaphysics IV, VII, VIII
De Anima I, II
Nicomachean Ethics I, II, VI, X

IV. IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 4	Labor Day Holiday (no class)
Sept. 18	In-class exam on the Pre-Socratics
Oct. 23	Take-home exam on Plato due (assignment given out 10/9)
Nov. 20, 22	Thanksgiving Holiday (no class)
Dec. 11	Aristotle exam 12:30-2:30 pm

V. POLICIES

- Unless we've made arrangements in advance, or unless you can document some kind of emergency, **no late work will be accepted.**
- The value of answering the prep questions resides in the fact that doing so prepares you to benefit from class discussion (witness their name!); consequently, **prep questions submitted *in absentia* will receive no credit**, except under circumstances described in the preceding policy item.
- I am committed to creating a class room atmosphere that supports learning and participation for all students. If you require an accommodation or have concerns about your ability to participate fully in class, please meet with me.
- I expect you to understand and to comply with the BSU Student Code of Conduct (<http://deanofstudents.boisestate.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>), especially with regard to cheating and plagiarism – see Section 7, “Procedures for Academic Misconduct.” I follow the Code with respect to sanctions for violations.