



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

PHI 120: History of Ancient Philosophy

Term: May 29 – June 29, 2017

Instructor: Peter B. M. Vranas

Home Institution: University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Email: TBD

Discussion session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

There is a very good reason why Ancient Philosophy is still extensively studied nowadays: it provided the foundations of Western civilization, and the questions that it raised continue to be relevant today. This course focuses on the three most major figures of that period, namely Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The readings are from the primary sources.

Course Goals

- ✧ To help you develop the skill of closely analyzing argumentative texts from an unfamiliar historical period.
- ✧ To help you become more open-minded by helping you realize that about every attempt to justify your positions is subject to powerful objections.
- ✧ To help you realize that some positions are better justified than others, that one can give reasons for and against positions, that philosophy is not merely a matter of opinion.
- ✧ To help you construct arguments for and against positions and to determine whether those arguments are good or bad.
- ✧ To help you develop valuable skills by emphasizing rigorous thinking, clarity, and precision.

Required Texts

Grube, G. M. A. (trans.) (2002). Plato: Five Dialogues (Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo). Indianapolis: Hackett.

Grube, G. M. A. et al. (trans.) (1992). Plato: Republic. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Bartlett, R., & Collins, S. (trans.) (2012). Aristotle: Nichomachean Ethics. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Inwood, B., & Gerson, L. P. (trans.) (1998). Hellenistic Philosophy. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Required course materials

All readings other than those from the required text will be made available electronically.

Attendance

Required.

Grading Policy

	Grade component	Date	Returned	Weight
1	Midterm exam	June 15	June 19	25%
2	Term paper (1,000 words maximum)	June 22	June 26	25%
3	Final exam	June 29	———	50%
				100%

Grading Scale

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

- A 90-100
- A– 85-89
- B+ 82-84
- B 78-81
- B– 75-77
- C+ 72-74
- C 68-71
- C– 64-67
- D 60-63
- F below 60

Class Rules

Class participation is not graded, because (1) I would like people to speak out of intrinsic motivation and interest in the topics, not to get a higher grade, and (2) I would not like people to be afraid of speaking because saying something less than brilliant might hurt their grade. On the other hand, I would like *everyone* to participate.

The fundamental discussion rule is that we must *treat everyone with the utmost respect*. It is not acceptable to insult or ridicule people or views. Everyone should feel free to voice unpopular opinions, as long as the opinions are expressed respectfully and backed by arguments. *You should feel especially free to disagree with me.*

The fundamental rule of respect has two concrete consequences. (1) Interrupting others is disrespectful: *please raise your hand and wait for your turn* before you speak. (2) Ignoring speakers is disrespectful: *please do not talk among yourselves* while someone is speaking.

Course Schedule

Date	Reading
Mon 29 May	Introduction to the course
Part I: SOCRATES	
Tue 30 May	<i>Euthyphro</i>
Wed 31 May	<i>Apology</i>
Thu 1 June	<i>Crito</i>
Mon 5 June	<i>Phaedo</i>
Part 2: PLATO	
Tue 6 June	<i>Meno</i>
Wed 7 June	<i>Republic</i> 1-2
Thu 8 June	<i>Republic</i> 3-5
Mon 12 June	<i>Republic</i> 6-7
Tue 13 June	<i>Republic</i> 8-10
Part 3: ARISTOTLE	
Wed 14 June	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> I 1-10,13
Thu 15 June	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> II 1-7— Midterm exam
Mon 19 June	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> III 1-5
Tue 20 June	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> III 6-IV 9
Wed 21 June	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> VIII-IX
Thu 22 June	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> X— Term paper due
Part 4: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHERS	
Mon 26 June	Epicureanism
Tue 27 June	Stoicism
Wed 28 June	Scepticism
Thu 29 June	Lessons from the course— Final exam