

Framingham State University

Syllabus

PHIL 201 The History of Ancient Philosophy

General Information

Session: Summer 2018(May 28th 2018 -Jun 29th 2018)

Credit: 4

Teaching Hours: 50 Hours

Time: 2 hours/day, Mon.-Fri.

Professor Name: Ryan Brown

Home Institution: Framingham State University

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Course Description

Welcome to ancient philosophy! This course is designed to introduce students to the history of ancient philosophy in the West from its origins in Greece to its expansion into the Roman Empire. We will discuss texts from Presocratic thinkers, Plato, and Aristotle. Special weight will be given to Plato and Aristotle, the two most important ancient philosophers, and two of the most important philosophers of all time.

Originally, and etymologically, philosophy means love (*philein*) of wisdom (*sophia*). For ancient philosophers, loving wisdom meant pursuing the true, the good, and the beautiful, particularly through asking questions about the most fundamental aspects of our human experience—in broadest terms, questions about the Divine, the Human Person, the World, and Society. In asking and answering these questions, we strive, as the Delphic oracle commanded, to know ourselves. We will try to think through the questions that preoccupied ancient Greek thinkers, especially questions of metaphysics and ethics. Thus, we will want to ask why are things the way they are, what “soul” is, what we can know, and how we ought to live in order to live the life of happiness.

Goals

Students will be expected to:

- Gain an introductory understanding of ancient philosophical texts and the way of life that stands behind them.
- Learn to read (philosophical) texts deeply and honestly, to write (philosophical) essays clearly and persuasively, and to discuss (in philosophical conversation) cogently and sensitively.
- Build a solid foundation in pre-modern Western philosophy so as to continue to study and discuss philosophy from other epochs and regions.

Finally, all of us will be asked to come to know ourselves—to struggle with our own (perhaps unrealized) philosophical positions as they come against those of brilliant thinkers of the past.

Required Texts

1. *A Presocratics Reader*, ed. Patricia Curd. ISBN: 978-1603843058
2. Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*, trans. G.M.A. Grube, 2nd ed. ISBN: 978-0872206335
3. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Joe Sachs. ISBN: 978-1585100354
4. Aristotle, *De Anima: On the Soul*, trans. Mark Shiffman. ISBN: 978-1585102488
5. F. Copleston, *A History of Philosophy, Vol. 1: Greece and Rome from the Pre-Socratics to Plotinus*. ISBN: 978-0385468435

The rest of the texts will be made available as PDFs on Blackboard. Please print these PDFs and read them before the assigned date. See the attached reading schedule for more information.

Assignments and Grading

- **Participation:** Being an active listener and participant is essential for the success of the class. Therefore, students will be expected to arrive on time, having brought a tangible copy of the reading, which has been critically read before class. *Take notes on the reading itself*, as well as in your notebooks. **Students will also be expected to contribute to the discussion at least once per week. Failure to do so will result in “cold-calling”.**
- **Reading Quizzes:** To ensure that texts are read before class, there will be a number of short reading quizzes each week, which will prompt you to respond to a question or two about the reading.
- **Midterm Exam:** The midterm will be given in the third week of class. It will cover all of the readings from the first two weeks of the term. Students will be expected to articulate definitions, themes, and central arguments and images from these texts.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be given on the last day of class. It will cover all of the readings from the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of the term. Students will be expected to articulate definitions, themes, and central arguments and images from these texts.

Here is the breakdown of how of the grading will work:

Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Reading Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-60	59-0
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F

Policies

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and constitutes a substantial portion of the final grade. If something serious comes up (and some kind of documentation is provided), or if you clear an absence with me beforehand, it will be excused. If not, it will be unexcused. If you miss more than two classes, a point will be deducted from your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. I don't want this, and neither do you, so come to class! Additionally, three unexcused late arrivals will constitute one unexcused absence.

Technology: Absolutely no electronics (computers, phones, etc.) are to be used in class without special permission solicited from me. *Any readings provided online must be printed out* and brought to class on the day for which they are assigned.

Food, Drink, and Other Potential Distractions: These kind of things are okay, but please just don't be distracting.

Academic Integrity: We all know plagiarism of any kind is strictly forbidden. Plagiarism will result in a failed assignment, perhaps even a failure of the class itself, or worse. If you have any questions as to whether something counts as plagiarism, ask me, or refer to the school's policy, which is included as an appendix at the end of this syllabus.

Personal Integrity: Because part of the nature of philosophy is critically examining assumptions and beliefs, it is easy for philosophical arguments to get tense. This is perfectly fine, as long as all the participants are respectful and do not resort to *ad hominem* attacks, slander, or anything of the sort. *Keep your comments on the idea, not on the person*, and remember that someone buying into what you consider to be a false idea need not imply that that person is foolish. Additionally, be respectful of religious, political, racial, sexual, and other differences. I will not tolerate bashing any religion, or sexist comments, or harassment, or discrimination of any kind. That being said, arguing about whether or not a religious, political, or other belief is true is perfectly acceptable and encouraged, so long as it remains respectful. If you feel as if this code is being broken, either by a student or by the instructor, please see me, and we will work on finding a solution.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and need special accommodations, please see me.

Books: If there are financial issues with purchasing books, please see me outside of class, and we will work together to find an accommodation.

Reading Schedule

Readings marked with a * will be made available on Blackboard or by email. All other readings come from the required texts available from the bookstore. Reading list is subject to change based on weather and/or the needs of the class.

Week 1. 28/5/18—1/6/18:

Monday, 28/5:	P. Hadot, <i>What is Ancient Philosophy?</i> , Introduction* Hesiod, <i>Theogony</i> , Selections* <i>A Presocratics Reader</i> [=PR], Ch. 1
Tuesday, 29/5:	Plato, <i>Ion</i> * Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> (in <i>Five Dialogues</i>)
Thursday, 31/5:	PR, Chs. 2, 8-10
Friday, 1/6:	PR, Chs. 3-6

Week 2. 4/6/18—8/6/28:

Monday, 4/6:	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (in <i>Five Dialogues</i>), 57a-77a
Tuesday, 5/6:	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , 77a-95a
Thursday, 7/6:	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , 95a-118a Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> , II.1-3*
Friday, 8/6:	Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> , I

Week 3. 11/6/18—15/6/18

Monday, 11/6:	Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> , II
Tuesday, 12/6:	Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> , III
Thursday, 14/6:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , I*
Friday, 15/6:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , II* Thucydides, <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , Melian Dialogue*

Week 4. 18/6/18—22/6/18

Monday, 18/6:	Plato, <i>Meno</i> (in <i>Five Dialogues</i>), 70a-85b
Tuesday, 19/6:	Plato, <i>Meno</i> , 85b-100b
Thursday, 21/6:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , I
Friday, 22/6:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , II

Week 5. 25/6/18—29/6/18

Monday, 25/6:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , X
Tuesday, 26/6:	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> , Diotima's Speech*
Wednesday, 27/6:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , VI-VII (selections)*

Thursday, 28/6: Plato, *Apology* (in *Five Dialogues*)

Friday, 29/6: Final Exam

UNIVERSITY POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY

Integrity is essential to academic life. Consequently, students who enroll at Framingham State University agree to maintain high standards of academic honesty and scholarly practice. They shall be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the published policies and procedures regarding academic honesty. Faculty members shall, at their discretion, include in the course syllabus additional statements relating the definition of academic honesty to their courses. They shall administer hour tests and exams in such a manner as to provide the best possible situation for all students. Faculty shall proctor exams, or, if they feel it is suitable to schedule a non-proctored exam, shall designate in writing at the beginning of the examination: 1) where they shall be found during the period and 2) where the exam papers are to be turned in.

Academic honesty requires but is not limited to the following practices: appropriately citing all published and unpublished sources, whether quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise expressed, in all of the student's oral and written, technical, and artistic work; observing the policies regarding the use of technical facilities.

Infractions of the Policy on Academic Honesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism: claiming as one's own work the published or unpublished literal or paraphrased work of another. It should be recognized that plagiarism is not only academically dishonest but also illegal.
2. Cheating on exams, tests, quizzes, assignments, and papers, including the giving or acceptance of these materials and other sources of information without the permission of the instructor(s).
3. Unauthorized collaboration with other individuals in the preparation of course assignments.
4. Submitting without authorization the same assignment for credit in more than one course.
5. Use of dishonest procedures in computer, laboratory, studio, or field work. Further clarification on academic honesty will be provided, when appropriate, in individual courses.
6. Misuse of the University's technical facilities (computer machinery, laboratories, media equipment, etc.), either maliciously or for personal gain. Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: a. Accessing the private files of another person or agency without express permission. b. The unauthorized use of technical facilities for purposes not connected with academic pursuits. When evidence indicates that a student has improperly used a technical facility, an appropriate supervisor (faculty or staff member) may take appropriate action reflecting the seriousness of the infraction, ranging from a verbal warning to, but not beyond, denial of use of the facility. If coursework may have been plagiarized, the supervisor will also inform all concerned faculty members, who may take action as described in the procedures for handling cases of alleged infractions of academic honesty.
7. Falsification of forms used to document the academic record and to conduct the academic business of the University.