



PHIL 201 History of Ancient Philosophy

Course Information:

Semester : July 6, 2020 - August 7, 2020
 Credit : 4
 Teaching Hours : 50 Hours
 Time : 2 hours/day, Mon-Fri
 Professor : Joseph D'Andrea
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Catalog Description:

The study of the development of philosophical thought beginning with Thales. Attention is given to the pre-Socratics and their influence on Plato. The main emphasis is on Plato and Aristotle. Prerequisite: One introductory philosophy course.

Required Texts:

Norman Melchert, The Great Conversation, Volume I, Seventh Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Grading:

There will be four grades given in this course, and each will count for 25% of the total grade. A midterm exam will cover the work we will have done on Chapters 1 through 5. Two papers, (3-5 pages, typewritten, double-spaced) Paper One, Paper Two. Your papers will investigate concepts in the philosophical work of Plato. The exact topics for the papers are attached to this syllabus and will be discussed in full as the due date approaches. The final exam (August 7) will cover Chapters 6, 7, and 8. Graded work will be handed back 96 hours after being submitted.

Mid-term Exam	25%
Paper one	25%
Paper Two	25%
Final Exam	25%
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Total	100%

Points	Value	Scale	Points	Value	Scale	Points	Value	Scale
95-100	4.0	A	80-82	2.7	B-	67-69	1.3	D+
90-94	3.7	A-	77-79	2.3	C+	63-66	1.0	D+
87-89	3.3	B+	73-76	2.0	C	60-62	0.7	D-
83-86	3.0	B	70- 72	1.7	C-	below 59	0.0	F



Written Assignments:

Paper 1: In the Apology Socrates tells the jurors that their killing him will harm them more than it will harm him. He also says that "a good man cannot be harmed either in life or in death." Using information from the Apology and the lecture notes, explain these striking remarks. (3-5 pages: pre-writing exercise).

Paper 2: In the Crito Socrates argues that his escaping from prison would be an injury to the laws of Athens. He further contends that, for this reason, he must not escape from his sentence. Use citations from the dialog and explain Socrates' argument. Do you agree with his argument? Explain why or why not. (3-5 pages: pre-writing exercise).

These are not easy assignments. Good papers will require much thought. Don't leave the work until the last minute. For the first draft: late papers lose a full grade for each day past the due date. Re-writes will not be accepted past the due date.

Evaluation for Written Work

General merit:	Low		Middle		High
Central idea	2	4	6	8	10
Support	2	4	6	8	10
Unity	1	2	3	4	5
Introduction	1	2	3	4	5
Conclusion	1	2	3	4	5
Style	1	2	3	4	5
Mechanics:					
Usage	1	2	3	4	5
Punctuation	1	2	3	4	5

Total: _____

Central idea: The paper will be rated on the degree to which it is focused on a clear and distinct subject. Is the purpose of the paper clear to the reader.

Support: The paper will be rated on the degree to which its generalization (thesis) is supported. Are there adequate details to support each of the paper's points?

Unity: The paper will be rated on the degree to which it proceeds smoothly and logically from point to point. Are transitions between paragraphs clear? Are paragraphs coherent and logical?

Introduction: The paper will be rated on the degree to which the introduction gets the reader's attention and prepares the reader for what is coming. Is there a hook?

Conclusion: The paper will be rated on the degree to which the conclusion draws a paper to a close, summarizes the main points, and reemphasizes the paper's purpose.

Style: The paper will be rated on the degree to which its sentences reflect a variety of syntactic structures and an appropriate usage of vocabulary. Does the word choice reflect a concern for the audience and the purpose of the paper?

Usage: The paper will be rated on its employment of capitalization, spelling, and grammar.



Course Schedule

DATE	READING	EXAM	PAPER
July 06	Melchert: pp 1 – 59 (Pre-Socratics and Sophists)		
July 13	Melchert: pp 60 – 117 (Socrates)	Mid-term exam	
July 15			Paper one Pre-writing exercise
July 17	Melchert: pp 118 – 154 (Plato)		Paper one due
July 24			Paper two Pre-writing exercise
July 27	Melchert: pp 155 – 196 (Aristotle)		Paper two due
Aug. 03	Melchert: pp 197 – 216 (Hedonism and Stoicism)	Final exam	

You are expected to read the textbook and pay attention to the questions that the author has embedded in the text. A third to a half of the questions on the mid-term exam and the final exam will be made up of questions that come from the questions in the text. The remainder of the questions on these exams will address content that comes from the lectures.

Attendance:

Understanding the content from the lectures is a critical component to your success in this course. It is important that you are present for the lectures, and I expect each student to make a commitment to be in class and to be on time. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session. Each absence or tardiness past the third instance will result in the subtraction of three points from the student's final average.

Cell Phones:

All cell phones are to be shut off and put away during class.

Halftime Break:

We will take a ten minute break halfway through each lecture. I ask that you refrain from leaving your seats during the lecture. Please wait until the break or until the end of class to leave the classroom.

Course Expectations:

For our accreditation, it is essential that all Framingham State University credit courses follow that federal definition of credit hour: for every one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work is required. Since the summer courses meet for two contact hours daily (10 contact hours of classroom time weekly), the



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expectation is that students spend 20 hours per week doing out-of-class work. For the five week 4-credit course, this reflects 50 hours of classroom time and 100 hours of out-of-class time since the credit hour is defined as 50 minutes.

Academic Honesty Policy:

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. You will be responsible for familiarizing yourself with the published policies and procedures regarding academic honesty. 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; (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; (6) Misuse of the university’s technical facilities (computer machinery, laboratories, media equipment, etc.), either maliciously or for personal gain; (7) Falsification of forms used to document the academic record and to conduct the academic business of the university.

FSU Notice of Non-Discrimination and Diversity:

Framingham State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination, equal opportunity, diversity, and affirmative action. The university is dedicated to providing educational, working, and living environments that value the diverse backgrounds of all people. Furthermore, the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act protects the rights of all residents of and visitors to Massachusetts to be free from bias-motivated threats, intimidation, and coercion that interfere with their civil rights. The Massachusetts Civil Rights Act protects the right to attend school, live peacefully, and enjoy other basic rights.