



PHILOSOPHY 200 HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2001 Syllabus

TR 9-10:15am
EKH 108

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman
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Office Hours:
M W F 9:30-10:30; TR 1:30-2:30
or by appointment

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Phil 200 History of Ancient Philosophy

Philosophy of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle and Roman Thinkers.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle, 2nd. Ed., S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, & C.D.C. Reeve, Editors. Hackett Publishing Co., 2000.

A New History of Philosophy: Volume I Ancient & Medieval, Wallace I. Matson. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, 1987.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will examine the foundations of Western civilization by surveying the philosophies of the ancient Greek thinkers. In Part I of the course we will begin by examining the crucial transition from *Mythos* to *Logos* that took place with the early Milesian philosophers' departure from the earlier worldview found in the poems of Homer and Hesiod, the oldest surviving pieces of literature in the Western world. We will then examine the rest of the development of the Pre-Socratic thinkers from such thinkers as Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Parmenides, the Pluralists and the Atomists. We will conclude this part of the course with an examination of the conflict between Socrates and the Sophists in fifth-century Athens which had such a decisive impact on the development of Western philosophy. In Part II of the course we will examine the philosophies of Socrates and Plato. We will begin by furthering examining the figure of Socrates and the problem of discerning his thought as distinct from Plato's portrayal of it. We will then carefully examine a few of the key dialogues of Plato, in order to come to some understanding of Plato's philosophy, his Theory of Ideas, belief in the immortality of the soul, the theory of knowledge as recollection, his concern with virtue and justice, and the problematic relationship between art and truth. We will then turn in Part III to an examination of the philosophy of Aristotle in order to come to some understanding of how his thought both carried on and departed from that of his teacher Plato, and also how it left such a lasting impression upon the development of Western civilization.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Our primary objective in this course is to gain a historical and critical understanding of a number of the conceptions, questions, and discussions that concerned the ancient Greek philosophers whose thought lay the foundations for Western civilization. We will seek to understand both the differences and similarities between the various ancient Greek conceptions of nature and humanity, as well as the differences and similarities between these ancient Greek conceptions and our own conceptions of the world and ourselves. We will also be concerned, more generally, with the fundamental question "What is philosophy?" or "What does it mean to be a philosopher, a lover of wisdom?" We will thus seek to gain an understanding and appreciation for the importance of philosophical thinking in both one's personal life and in the life of our society. We will thus also seek to develop the necessary critical faculties to deal with philosophical problems in both written and verbal format. In doing so we will seek to develop the

critical thinking skills that enable the development of the “whole person,” one better prepared to deal with the challenges faced in both one’s personal and professional life.

GRADING POLICY

1. Regular attendance is expected (poor attendance will lower your grade substantially).
2. There will be a mid-term take-home writing assignment. (20%)
3. There will be a mid-term short-essay in-class examination. (25%)
4. There will be a final essay paper due on the last class day. (30%)
5. There will be a short-essay in-class final examination. (25%)
6. Students are expected to read the assigned texts and come to class prepared to discuss the problems and issues covered in each class. A student may earn up to 5 points bonus on the final average through participation in classroom discussion.

*All take-home writing assignments must be word-processed.

Grading will be based on the following scale:

90+=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 50-59=F

COURSE FORMAT

Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with emphasis on informal lecture.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

All work completed outside of class must be word-processed. Late essays will be penalized one letter grade (10pts) for each class period late. Late final papers cannot be accepted.

Consider the statement on academic honesty in the *University of Hawaii—Hilo 2001-2002 General Catalog* (page 38) to be a part of this Course Syllabus. The papers you submit must be your own work. If you borrow ideas from printed sources you must cite the source. Indicate direct quotations with quotation marks and citations.

Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office at 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), Campus Center Room 311, as early in the semester as possible.

Cover image: Raphael, *School of Athens*.

From CGFA, A Virtual Art Museum, <http://sunsite.dk/cgfa/index.html>

| <i>Fall 2001</i> | <i>History of Ancient Philosophy</i> | <i>Schedule</i> |
|------------------|---|---|
| Date | Topic | Reading Assignment |
| T 8/28 | <i>Introduction & Orientation</i> | |
| TH 8/30 | PART I: THE PRESOCRATICS & THE SOPHISTS <i>The Milesians: Thales, Anaximander, & Anaximenes</i> From <i>Mythos</i> to <i>Logos</i> : The Origins of Philosophy and Science | Matson (3-17) CCR (1-14) |
| T 9/4 | <i>Pythagoras & Xenophanes</i> Mathematics and the World The Immortality of Soul and Beans | Matson (17-23) CCR (15-23) |
| TH 9/6 | <i>Heraclitus</i> Change & Pluralism The Concept of Universal Law | Matson (24-28) CCR (24-34) |
| T 9/11 | <i>The Eleatics: Parmenides, Zeno, & Melissus</i> The Quest for Truth and Being The Power of Logic | Matson (29-37) CCR (35-41; 59-63; 76-79) |
| TH 9/13 | <i>The Pluralists: Anaxagoras & Empedocles</i> Conceiving the Mind The Cosmic Balance | Matson (38-47) CCR (42-58) |
| T 9/18 | <i>The Atomists: Leucippus & Democritus</i> Atoms & the Void | Matson (48-61) CCR (64-71) |
| TH 9/20 | <i>Socrates & the Sophists</i> The Politics of Truth | Matson (62-82) CCR (80-88) |
| T 9/25 | PART II: SOCRATES & PLATO <i>Introduction to Plato</i> <i>The Euthyphro</i> Socratic Dialogue | Matson (83-86) CCR(89-111) |
| TH 9/27 | <i>The Apology</i> The Secret to Socrates' Wisdom | CCR (112-120) |
| T 10/2 | <i>The Apology</i> Socrates' Defense of Philosophy Why the Unexamined Life is Not Worth Living | CCR (120-130) |

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| Date | Topic | Reading Assignment |
| TH 10/4 | <i>The Meno</i> What is Virtue? Can Virtue be Taught? | CCR (191--200) |
| T 10/9 | <i>*First Essay Assignment Due*</i> <i>The Meno</i> The Theory of Recollection | CCR (201-216) |
| TH 10/11 | <i>The Phaedo</i> Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul: The Theory of Recollection | CCR (217-240) |
| T 10/16 | <i>The Phaedo</i> The Theory of Ideas | CCR (241-251) Matson (87-97) |
| TH 10/18 | <i>The Republic: Book I & II Selections</i> The Problem of Justice | CCR (263-317) follow handout |
| T 10/23 | <i>The Republic: Book IV & V Selections</i> Plato's Politics | CCR (350-408) follow handout Matson (98-104) |
| TH 10/25 | <i>The Republic: Books VI & VII Selections</i> The Sun Analogy The Myth of the Cave | CCR (409-460) follow handout |
| T 10/30 | <i>The Republic: Book X</i> Plato and the Arts Plato on the Human Good | CCR (436-460) Matson (104-110) |
| TH 11/1 | <i>The Symposium</i> Love and Beauty | CCR (252-262) |
| T 11/6 | <i>*Mid-Term Exam*</i> | |
| | PART III: ARISTOTLE | |
| TH 11/8 | <i>Introduction to Aristotle</i> | Matson (111-117) CCR (577-586) |
| T 11/13 | <i>Physics, Books II & VIII</i> Physics, The Four Causes | CCR (634-651; 657-58) |

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| Date | Topic | Reading Assignment |
| TH 11/15 | <i>Metaphysics, Book I</i> What is first philosophy? Aristotle's Philosophy of Nature | CCR (690-703) Matson (118-130) |
| T 11/20 | <i>Metaphysics, Books VIII & XII</i> Substance, Matter, Form God: the Unmoved Mover | CCR (728-740) Matson (118-130) |
| TH 11/22 | <i>Holiday: Thanksgiving</i> | |
| T 11/27 | <i>De Anima I & II (On the Soul)</i> Aristotle's Psychology | CCR (741-757) Matson (134-136) |
| TH 11/29 | <i>Nichomachean Ethics, Book I</i> Happiness & Human Good Aristotle's Ethics | CCR (764-777) Matson (137-141) |
| T 12/4 | <i>Nichomachean Ethics, Book II</i> The Nature of Moral Virtue | CCR (777-7784) |
| TH 12/6 | <i>Nichomachean Ethics, Books V & X</i> Justice & Happiness | CCR (795-799; 813-823) |
| T 12/11 | <i>Politics, Books I & II</i> Aristotle's Politics | CCR (824-831) Matson (175-179) |
| TH 12/13 | <i>Politics, Book VII</i> <i>*Final Essay Assignment Due*</i> | CCR (845-854) |
| TH 12/20 | Final Exam (7:30 - 9:30 am) | |