

Introduction to Ancient Greek Philosophy (PHIL 221)
Towson University Spring 2020
T/R 2-3:15 pm Liberal Arts 4110

Instructor: Cara Cummings

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Office Hours: LA 3115 T/R 12:30-1:30 pm and by appointment

Course Description

Catalog Description

The origins of Western philosophical thought will be studied in the works of the Pre-Socratic, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Satisfies Core 5 (Arts & Humanities) requirement.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of topics from across ancient Greek philosophy. Some questions we'll discuss include: What does it mean to live well? What does it mean to be a good citizen? What is the nature of causation? Is there an intangible realm of reality we can access during the afterlife? What can philosophy tell us about the nature of love?

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have had an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy. They will also learn to construct and assess arguments for philosophical positions. Doing so will strengthen their critical thinking skills in all disciplines and even outside of academic life.

Course Requirements

There will be two response papers (each worth 10% of the final grade), two in-class exams (each worth 20%), and a final 5-page paper (worth 30%). Participation and attendance will account for the final 10%.

Response Paper 1: Hard copy due at the beginning of class 2/18

Exam 1: During class 3/5

Response Paper 2: Hard copy due at the beginning of class 4/9

Exam 2: During class 4/23

Final Paper: Hard copy due 5/19

Guidelines and instructions for each assignment are available on blackboard.

Policies & Procedures

Grading

A: 93.6-100 A-: 90-93.5 B+: 86.6-89.9 B: 83.6-86.5 B-: 80-83.5 C+: 76.6-79.9 C: 70-76.5 D+: 66.6-69.9 D: 63.6-66.5 F: 0-63.5

Use of Electronics

In this course you will be allowed to use your laptop or tablet to take notes or view the readings on blackboard. Using an electronic device for anything outside of this will result in being marked absent for the day.

Late Work

Late assignments are penalized at a rate of one letter-grade increment per day late (e.g., a B+ becomes a B- on a 2-day-late paper), up to one week. Assignments that are more than a week late will receive a zero. Deadline extensions are granted only in exceptional, *documented* circumstances, and at the discretion of the instructor.

Absences

You are allowed two unexcused absences before they will begin to affect your grade. Not counting the first week, we have 27 scheduled meetings. Your grade will be determined by dividing the number of times that you are in class (not counting the first week) by 25 (maximum 100%). See Towson's absence policy for what counts as an excused absence at www.catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/class-attendance-absence-policy.

Students with Disabilities

This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services (DSS), 7720 York Road, Suite 232, 410-704-2638 (Voice) or 410-704- 4423 (TDD). Students who suspect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from DSS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made.

Academic Integrity

The University's Academic Integrity Policy is published in the Towson University Undergraduate Catalog and is available online at the web site of Student Affairs located at <https://www.towson.edu/studentaffairs/policies/>. Academic dishonesty specifically includes acts of plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, cheating, abuse of academic materials, and multiple submissions. Especially note that students may not re-use research papers or work submitted in previous or other classes, this includes group projects, or work performed by someone else. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. The penalty for such dishonesty is a grade of 0 for the assigned work, possible failure for the course and the submission of a letter to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Incompletes

An 'I' grade may be granted towards the end of the term, but only for verifiable medical reasons or for documented circumstances beyond the control of the student. This grade will not be granted if the student does not meet either of these criteria. The 'I' automatically becomes an 'F' at the end of the next full semester unless changed by the instructor because missing coursework was completed. If the conditions for granting the original incomplete verifiably persist, the instructor in consultation with the chair of the department may extend the 'I' grade for a period not to exceed an additional regular semester.

Course Repetition

Students may not repeat the course more than once without prior permission of the Academic Standards Committee.

Emergencies

Please refer to the following: Web Site: www.towson.edu; Telephone: (410)704-2000. For TU Text Alert System Sign-up at www.towson.edu/adminfinance/facilities/police/campusemergency/

Required Texts

Aristotle. *Introductory Readings*. Translated by Terence Irwin & Gail Fine. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1996.

Plato. *A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues*. Edited by C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2012.

Reading Schedule

Readings marked with * are available on blackboard.

Week One: Introduction to Philosophy

1/28: Course Introduction (No Reading)

1/30: The Milesians*

Week Two: Pre-Socratics

2/4: Heraclitus*

2/6: Parmenides & Zeno*

Week Three: Sophists

2/11: Protagoras & Prodicus *

2/13: Gorgias*

Week Four: Plato

2/18: *Euthyphro*

2/20: *Apology*

Week Five: Plato

2/25: *Republic* Book I

2/27: *Republic* Book II

Week Six: Plato

3/3: *Republic* Book III (414b-415c) & Book IV

3/5: EXAM ONE

Week Seven: Plato

3/10: *Republic* Book V

3/12: *Republic* Books VI, & VII (only through 517a)

Week Eight: Plato

3/24: *Republic* Book VIII

3/26: *Republic* Book IX

Week Nine: Plato

3/31: *Republic* Book X

4/2: *Symposium* (through 198a)

Week Ten: Aristotle

4/7: *Symposium* (198b to the end)

4/9: *Physics* Book I (1,7-8) & Book II (1-3, 7-8)

Week Eleven: Aristotle

4/14: *De Anima* Book II (1-4, 11-12) & Book III (4-5)

4/16: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I (1-5, 7)

Week Twelve: Aristotle

4/21: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book II (1-7)

4/23: EXAM TWO

Week Thirteen: Aristotle

4/28: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book III (1-5)

4/30: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VI (1, 5, 8,12-13)

Week Fourteen: Aristotle

5/5: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VII (1-3)

5/7: *Nicomachean Ethics* Book IX (8-9)

Week Fifteen: Aristotle

5/12: *Politics* Books II (1-5) & III (1 & 4)