



PHIL*2140 Ancient Greek Philosophy

Fall 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 5.00 - October 07, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

A survey of the beginnings of Western philosophy, this course will focus on themes such as the nature of reality, the ways we might come to have knowledge, and the good life for human beings. This course will typically consider such thinkers as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Epictetus, although the specific course content will vary with the instructor.

Pre-Requisites: 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1030, PHIL*1050)

1.2 Course Description

A survey of ancient Greek & Roman philosophy, combining class discussion of the Presocratics, Plato, and Aristotle, with outside reading on a variety of philosophers not covered in class. 1) Curd (editor): A Presocratics Reader (2nd edition). 2) Plato's Phaedo (Grube trans.). 3) The Philosophy of Aristotle (edited by Bambrough).

1.3 Timetable

Course Lectures are 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM Tuesday and Thursday in GRHM 2310.

Please see WebAdvisor for the latest up-to-date information.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Kenneth Dorter
Email:	kdorter@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53218
Office:	MCKN 353
Office Hours:	Mondays 2:30-3:30 and Wednesdays 1-2 in MCKN 353 or by appointment.

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant:	Kyle Novak
Email:	knovak@uoguelph.ca
Office:	MCKN 367
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 4-5 PM

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Presocratics (Readings)

Introduction, Milesians (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes), Heraclitus, Parmenides and Zeno of Elea.

Plato (Readings)

Phaedo 57a-69e, 69e-72e, 72e-77a, 77a-84b, 84b-95a, 95a-107b, 107b-118a.

Aristotle (Readings)

1. Metaphysics I: 1 & 2; Physics II:3
2. Metaphysics VII: 3, 7, 8
3. Metaphysics XII: 6, 7, 9, 10
4. Psychology III: 4 & 5; Ethics X: 1, 4-8

Outside Reading (Readings)

You'll be expected to be able to identify the following names on the final exam: Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Protagoras, Gorgias, Pythagoras, Leucippus, Democritus, Diogenes (of Sinope), Epicurus, Pyrrho, Philo, Sextus Empiricus, Lucretius, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Plotinus. You can read about them in a history of philosophy text, such as Frederick Copleston's *History of Philosophy* (Vol. 1), or online at sites like Wikipedia, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand, explain and assess major historical and/or conceptual developments in Greek and Roman philosophy, and their implications for issues in moral philosophy, epistemology and metaphysics.
 2. Read and comprehend original source materials in the history and problems of philosophy..
 3. Write clearly and cogently on basic problems in philosophy
 4. Be familiar with the philosophies of Thales, Anaximander, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Plato, and Aristotle.
 5. Be able to identify the basic ideas of the philosophers on the list of outside readings.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Dates will depend on class discussion. I'll let you know by email when we move on to the next reading.

5.1 Lecture

Topics: Thales of Miletia

Topics: Anaximander of Miletia

Topics: Heraclitus of Ephesus

Topics: Parmenides and Zeno of Elea

Topics: **Plato: Phaedo**

57a-69e

69e-72e

72e-77a

77a-84b

84b-95a

95a-107b

107b-118a

Topics:

Aristotle:

1) Metaphysics I: 1 & 2; Physics II: 3

2) Metaphysics VII: 3, 7, 8,

3) Metaphysics XII: 6, 7, 9, 10

4) Psychology III: 4 & 5; Ethics X: 1, 4-8

5.2 Outside readings

You'll be expected to be able to identify the following names on the final exam: Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Protagoras, Gorgias, Pythagoras, Leucippus, Democritus, Diogenes (of Sinope), Epicurus, Pyrrho, Philo, Sextus Empiricus, Lucretius, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Plotinus.

You can read about them in a history of philosophy text, such as Frederick Copleston's *History of Philosophy* (Vol. 1), or online at sites like Wikipedia, The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

6 Assessments

In addition to the final exam (50%) you may write **either** two 1250 word essays (25% each) **or** one 2500 word essay (50%). 1250 or 2500 words are minimum lengths – **essays may be longer if justified by the content**. You can also use the first 1250 word essay as a trial run for the 2500 word essay, or you can expunge the grade for your first essay by submitting a 2500 word essay later. If you want preliminary feedback submit something by the first deadline. **All essays must be submitted to the Turnitin dropbox on Courselink**. See Essay Guidelines for due dates.

6.1 Assessment Details

Final Examination (50%)

The final exam will consist of **essay questions** about the works covered in class (selected from a list handed out at the final class), and **identification questions** from the outside readings (the latter will be worth 20-25% of the exam grade).

Essay (50%)

Essay topics

If you're interested in materialism or hedonism you could try Epicurus or Lucretius (Courselink – for Epicurus read all three letters even if you just write on one).

For something more spiritual try the Stoics (Epictetus or Marcus Aurelius – Courselink).

For metaphysics either Plotinus (the abridged version on Courselink – or a better translation on 3-day reserve B693.E53 O2) or Philo (3-day reserve B689.A4 E413).

For skepticism either Sextus Empiricus (Book 1 of Outlines of Pyrrhonism is on Courselink) or the Sophists (especially Protagoras or Gorgias in Presocratics Reader).

You could also work on Aristotle's Poetics or Politics (both on Courselink – Copleston's discussion of Poetics is a useful secondary source). **But not his Metaphysics, Physics, De Anima (Psychology), or Ethics, since they'll be covered in class.**

Don't write on Plato – any dialogue would likely overlap with the Phaedo.

6.2 Essay guidelines

Note: All essays must be submitted to the appropriate Turnitin dropbox on Courselink.

1. Deadlines:

- 2500 word essay: November 12.
- 1250 word essays: October 16 and November 12. **For the first deadline late**

essays will be accepted until the end of the week without penalty; after that you'll have to defer to the single essay option.

For the second deadline late essays will be penalized one mark (out of 100) per day. No essay will be accepted after **9 a.m. the weekday before** the final exam. Students will not normally be required to answer questions about their essay but may in some cases. I'll email you if any questions arise so check your email daily since I won't be able to grade it if I can't reach you.

2. Subject: Any philosopher in ancient Greek or Roman philosophy who **isn't studied in class**. There's nothing wrong with referring to works studied in class as long as they aren't the main focus. You can write on a philosopher studied in class only if the book is on a completely different subject (check with me to make sure).

3. Sources: Focus on **primary texts** (texts of the original author), although secondary sources (works about the original author's texts) may be used as a supplement. **Quotations in a secondary source don't count as primary texts** because they're taken out of context. The point is to develop skill in exegesis and evaluation; reporting the results of other people's exegesis and evaluation doesn't accomplish this.

4. Content: Combine scholarship and creativity, i.e. both attentiveness to the text and a personal response of your own. If you're interpreting a particularly difficult text it may be enough just to give a clear explanation of it. Where the interpretation is more straightforward your creativity can take the form of considering objections to the author's views and how the author might reply to them; explain why you think the author can or cannot withstand the criticisms. Also consider possible objections to your own views. The more challenging you can make these issues, the better: treating answers as obvious is not worth as much as seeing how they are controversial and difficult.

5. Format: The five paragraph model you learned in high school was training wheels to teach discipline. People don't really write essays like that. Just organize your ideas to be as clear as possible. Use double spaced full sized font (12 point). Also use page numbers. 1250 or 2500 words are minimum lengths – **essays may be longer if justified by the content**.

6. Style: Use "I" rather than awkward and outdated circumlocutions like "the author." And use inclusive language like "humankind" instead of "mankind", "people ... they" instead of "a person ... he." Other possibilities: "he or she", "she or he", "s/he", etc.

7. Footnotes: Give references to all information and ideas taken from someone else, even if they aren't direct quotations. Otherwise it may be plagiarism (when in doubt ask). Listing your sources in a bibliography isn't enough since it doesn't show where you make use of them or which page the reference comes from. References should **list the author that you're citing first**. For example, if you use a book called John Green (editor), The Philosophy of Plotinus, and your footnote is to something Plotinus wrote, it should say, "Plotinus, in John Green (editor), The Philosophy of Plotinus, p. 12", **not** "Green, John, The Philosophy of Plotinus, p. 12". Only if you cite something that the editor wrote would you use the latter format. Only

the first citation need be complete; after that you can abbreviate, e.g. "Green 12".

A sample philosophy essay is available on Courselink.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
