

PHIL\*2140\*02 - Ancient Greek Philosophy

Term: Fall 2023

Section(s): 02

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

# Course Details

## Calendar Description

PHIL\*2140  Ancient Greek Philosophy  Fall Only  (LEC: 3)  [0.50]

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.

**Prerequisite(s):** 2.00 credits or (1 of [PHIL\*1000](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1000), [PHIL\*1010](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1010), [PHIL\*1030](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1030), [PHIL\*1050](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=PHIL*1050))

**Department(s):** Department of Philosophy

Location(s): Guelph

## Detailed Course Description

This course will introduce students to two key concepts within Ancient Greek philosophy: philía (φιλία, ‘Love’ or ‘friendship’) and sophía (σοφία, ‘wisdom’). My own research has led me to believe that prominent figures of Ancient Greek philosophy (chiefly Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) were earnest in their contention that philosophy is a kind of Love or friendship. This class will explore just what that means.

We will cover topics like Aristotle’s different types of friendship in the Nicomachean Ethics, tensions between accounts of Love in the Phaedrus, and what types of knowledge are created by our love and friendship with others according to Socrates and Aristotle

To examine these themes, we will study fragments from The Presocratic Reader, along with Plato’s Phaedrus and Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics, with a mind to unpacking how these texts engage with philía and sophía as crucial elements of understanding philosophy.

## Timetable

Lecture: T/Th 1:00 PM - 2:20 PM (In-person) & Wednesday from 1:00 – 2:20pm

Please see WebAdvisor for classroom information.

# Instructional Support

Instructor: Please see Web Advisor for this information

Email: Please see Web Advisor for this information

Office Hours: TBD

# **Required Textbooks:**

**Aristotle**

**Nicomachean Ethics**

University of Chicago Press

**Plato**  
Phaedrus

Hackett Publishing (Scully Edition)

Books are available in the university bookstore.

# Course Learning Outcomes

# By the end of this course students should:

1. be able to r*ead* and *comprehend*original source materials in Ancient Greek philosophy

1. be able to ask insightful philosophical questions and clearly and concisely problematize them
2. be able to interpret and explain segments of ancient Greek texts on their own terms, bearing in mind historical and cultural context.
3. be able to write a philosophical argument defending their interpretation of the text.

# Teaching and Learning Activities

## Lectures

Precise page numbers or Stephanus numbers are guidlines for the course readings and may be subject to changes. I will announce these changes ahead of time.

Sept 7 – Introduction, *Philia* and *Sophia, What is Philosophy*?

Give them an outline of the course

Sept 12 & 14 – The Pre-Socratics: The Pythagoreans and Parmenides

* Sept 12: Milesians/Pythagoreans

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Sept 12*

* Sept 14: Parmenides/Hericlitus

Sept 19 & 21 – *Phaedrus:* Introducing the Text, How to Read Socratic Dialogues

* *Sept 19: The Departure from Athens* (*227a1 to 230e5)* & How to Read a Socratic Dialogue

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Sept 19*

* *Sept 21: Socrates and Lysias*’ *First Speeches (230e6 to 241d1)*

Oct 3 & 5 – *Phaedrus*: Socrates’ *Palinode*

* Oct 3: *Types of Divine Madness*

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Oct 3*

* Oct 5: *The Charioteer Myth*

Oct 10 & 12 – *Phaedrus:* Discourse on Rhetoric

* Oct 10: No Classes (Fall Break)
* Oct 12: 259e1 to 274a6-b1, 274b6 to 27

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Oct 12*

Oct 17 & 19 – *Phaedrus:* Difference Between Oral and Written Speech & Wrap-Up

* Oct 17: Difference Between Oral and Written Speech

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Oct 17*

Oct 19: Wrap Up

Oct 24 & 26 –

*Nicomachean Ethics:* A Brief Introduction & Workshop on Essay Writing (Book I)

Read Book I – Pay attention to Ends & Goods, the Platonic Ideal of the Good, Human Good, Happiness

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Oct 24th*

Oct 31 & Nov 2 – *Nicomachean Ethics:* Virtue (Book II & III)

Read Book II & III – Pay attention to discussions of how virtue is cultivated, character, and wisdom

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Oct 31st*

Nov 7 & 9 – *Nicomachean Ethics: Virtues of Thought, Incontinence and Pleasure (Books VI & VII)* Wisdom v. Prudence, Incontinence and Intemperance, Pleasure (Why Aristotle’s account is of note)

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Nov 7th*

* *HAND IN OUTLINE BY 11:59 p.m. on November 10th*

*(Hand out Instructions on final paper)*

Nov 14 & 16 – *Nicomachean Ethics:* Aristotle and Friendship pt. 1 (Book VIII)

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class on Nov 14th*

Nov 21 & 23 – *Nicomachean Ethics:* Aristotle and Friendship pt. 2 (Book VIII)

*HAND IN REFLECTION at the beginning of class Nov 21st*

Nov 28 & 30 – *Final Week*

* Nov 28: WRAP UP / FINAL LECTURE
* Nov 30: Drop In Workshop for Paper

*HAND IN FINAL PAPER BY 11:59 p.m. on December 8th*

# Assessments

**Example**

1. Relections 35%
   1. Date: Beginnning of every Tuesday class with the exception of reading week and November 28th
   2. Description: Reflections are 7 short assignments (300-500 words) that accompany an assigned reading that will be due prior to the lecture on that reading. Students will be required to ask a philosophical question concerning the reading for that week and to explain that question. Particularly students are meant to explain why the question has no clear answer and therefore why it is philosophically worthwhile. This assignment is meant to allow students to cultivate learning outcomes 1-3 found in the course outline under “learning outcomes”.
2. Participation 10%
   1. Description: You get participation grades for coming to lecture and participating in discussion This assignment is meant to allow students to cultivate learning outcomes 1 and 2 found in the course outline under “learning outcomes”.
3. Paper Outline - 20%
   1. Date: November 10th 11:59pm
   2. Description: This assignment will consist of two main components: an introduction which outlines the aim and thesis of the paper and the general layout of an argument in the form of the premises students hope to use to defend their thesis and brief justifications of those premises. This assignment is meant to allow students to cultivate learning outcomes 1-4 found in the course outline under “learning outcomes”.
4. Final paper - 35%
   1. Date: December 8th 11:59pm
   2. Description: This assignment will be a 3-4 page paper introducing and answering a philosophical question. Students will have a choice of using their own topic or one of several topics I will provide for the class. If students choose one of the provided topics, they are encouraged to reformulate the question according to their relationship with and understanding of the text. This assignment is meant to allow students to cultivate learning outcomes 1-4 found in the course outline under “learning outcomes”.

All assignments in this course will be structured to guide students effectively in learning how to write a philosophy paper. Short reflections will introduce students to asking philosophical questions and problematizing them for readers while producing an outline for a longer paper aids students in structuring an answer to a question in the form of a detailed and well-structured argument. The culmination of these tasks will be to produce a larger final paper utilizing these acquired skills. We will also be covering the fundamentals of writing a philosophy paper in lecture.

# Late Policy

All assignments must be completed by the due date unless there are grounds for academic consideration.

# University Standard Statements

## Email Communication

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

## 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

## Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. 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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-%2525252520drop.shtml)

## 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.

## 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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer).

Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

More information: [www.uoguelph.ca/sas](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas)

## Academic Misconduct

Students are responsible for submitting their *own* work. Students are not permitted to use ChatGPT to complete assignments. If you would like to reference the ideas of others in your academic work you must include appropriate citations.

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 discourages misconduct. 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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-%2525252520amisconduct.shtml)

## Recording of Materials

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

## Resources

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

## Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via Courselink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/) and circulated by email.

## Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

## COVID-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

* [https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your- safe-return/](https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-%2525252520safe-return/)
* [https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces](https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/%252523ClassroomSpaces)

Please note, that these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.