



PHIL*2140 Ancient Greek Philosophy

Fall 2020

Section(s): 01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - August 22, 2020

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

Ancient Greece in the few centuries of its flourishing (c. 650-350 BC) was a vibrant culture that was fundamental to shaping subsequent Western (and world) culture. In addition to leaving an amazing artistic and cultural legacy, it is also especially important for its political innovations (such as the invention of democracy) and its intellectual accomplishments (such as the invention of rigorous historical and philosophical writing). We will focus on the political and philosophical accomplishments of the Greeks, first looking at a selection of texts by Heraclitus, Pythagoras, Parmenides, Thucydides and Xenophon and then turning to our major studies of Plato and Aristotle. We will study Plato's *Apology* and *Republic*, focusing on the human aspiration toward the true, the good and the beautiful. From Aristotle, we will primarily read portions of *On the Soul* and the *Nicomachean Ethics*. Overall, we will be investigating the unique and ambivalent place of the human being within the world of nature: on the one hand, we are organisms who live and die, and, on the other, we are minds that engage (both theoretically and practically) with the eternal and the unchanging. The texts and topics we will study are works that will have an enduring impact on your life as well as being foundational for further studies in philosophy.

This course will be offered in asynchronous, alternate delivery format. Instruction will primarily take the form of video lectures and power-point notes that students can access on

their own schedule, and there will be regularly discussion sections led by the Teaching Assistant.

1.3 Timetable

Asynchronous Remote Delivery.

Please check Webadvisor for any changes.

1.4 Final Exam

Take Home Assignment, due during the final exam period.

Please check Webadvisor for any changes.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	John Russon
Email:	jrusson@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53553
Office:	MCKN 338

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant:	Nour Abuhsan
Email:	nabuhsan@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Four Texts on Socrates, trans. West and West (Textbook)

Plato, Republic, trans. Bloom (Textbook)

Aristotle, Basic Works of Aristotle, trans. McKeon (Textbook)

Selections of Presocratic Philosophy and History (Readings)

The readings will be available in PDF format on courselink.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Enhanced Insight

The single most important outcome from taking this class will be that you individually take your own life seriously, and reflect with care, subtlety and insight on how you are shaping your life and on what you can do to make for yourself a fulfilling present and future. These writers are not presenting you with dry facts about the external world, but are calling upon you to participate in reflection on your own experience and, through that reflection, to engage actively and self-critically in shaping *how* you exist.

2. Improved Thinking

In addition to offering profound and subtle reflections on how we make meaningful lives for ourselves, the writers we are studying this term are also some of the most rigorous and sophisticated thinkers our culture has ever produced. Engaging with their thoughts should teach you to be much more discerning and articulate in your understanding of many aspects of reality, and should make you a better thinker generally.

3. Improved Reading

The main form of study in this course is reading and writing about difficult texts. Learning to read these texts well will help you to become a better reader and writing about them will help you to develop better skills with language in general.

4. Increased Understanding

You should become familiar with the specific insights and ideas of these philosophers about the distinctive nature of *human* life, about *knowledge*, about *virtue*, about *happiness*, about *politics*, about *history* and more.

5. Heightened Awareness

Finally, these are some of the most formative thinkers in the history of human culture. Studying these figures is also helping you to become cognizant of the nature of the world you live in, and how it came to develop the form that it has.

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topics:

Videotaped lectures will be posted regularly. Because this course is being delivered remotely in asynchronous format, you will have a lot of latitude in determining your own schedule for watching the lectures, though there will be some broad deadlines to which you have to adhere.

5.2 Seminar

Topics:

There will be regular, online discussions, facilitated by the teaching assistant.

6 Assessments

The course will have three modules, with the following general themes:

Presocratic Philosophy and Socrates

Plato's Republic

Aristotle

Each module will have lectures and readings (and there will be discussion sessions led by the TA), and you will have considerable flexibility in determining when you will complete this work. For each module, you will also have an assignment which must be completed by a specified date. For the first module, the assignment will be one essay question, given in advance, for which you must submit a written answer (no longer than one single-spaced page [c. 700 words]); for the second and third modules, the assignment will be two essay questions, given in advance, for which you must submit written answers (with the answer for each being no longer than one single-spaced page [c. 700 words]).

6.1 Assessment Details

First Take Home Test Question (20%)

Date: Mon, Oct 5

On this date you are required to submit your written answer (no longer than 1 single-spaced page) to one questions that you will have been given in advance.

Second Take Home Test Questions (40%)

Date: Mon, Nov 9

On this date you are required to submit your written answers (no longer than 1 single-spaced page each) to two questions that you will have been given in advance.

Final Take Home Test Questions (40%)

Date: Mon, Dec 7

On this date you are required to submit your written answers (no longer than 1 single-spaced page each) to two questions that you will have been given in advance.

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>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.
