



# MORAVIAN COLLEGE

## ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY COURSE SYLLABUS Moravian College Spring 2015

PHI 241: Ancient Philosophy  
T/TH (2:35-3:45PM)  
Classroom: Main Street Campus, Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex, 102  
Instructor: Dr. Leon Niemoczynski ("Dr. Leon")  
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Web Page: <https://sites.google.com/site/niemoczynski/>  
Office Hours: T/TH 12-1PM

### Course Description

A critical examination of the history of Greek philosophy, including the pre-Socratics, Thales, Anaxagoras, Parmenides, Heraclitus, Empedocles, Plato, and Aristotle.

### Course Objectives

(1) Define philosophy and understand its history and divisions (Metaphysics, Epistemology, Value Theory); (2) Understand philosophy's beginnings by studying Presocratic metaphysical thought and its relationship to science and religion; (3) Explain Socrates' importance for the history of philosophy and the details of his trial; (4) Accomplish an in-depth study of Plato's *Republic* while learning how his philosophy has influenced understanding of the realms of value, knowledge, and reality; (5) Understand Aristotle's contributions to the history of philosophy including his logic, ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics; (6) Rehearse the major arguments for virtue ethics, metaphysics, logic, and epistemology as advanced by the Stoics and Epicureans (time permitted).

### Required Texts

1. *Ancilla to the Pre-Socratic Philosophers*, edited by Kathleen Freeman. Harvard University Press, 1983. ISBN-13: 978-0674035010.
2. *Plato: Five Dialogues* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, translated by G.M.A. Grube and edited by John M. Cooper. Hackett Publishing Company, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0872206335.
3. *The Republic* translated by Desmond Lee. Penguin Books, revised edition. ISBN-13: 978-0140455113.
4. Aristotle *The Nichomachean Ethics* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, translated by Terence Irwin. Hackett Publishing Company, 1999. ISBN-13: 978-0872204645.

### Optional Text

1. *Greek Philosophical Terms: A Historical Lexicon with an English-Greek Index*. By F.E. Peters. NYU Press, 1970. ISBN-13: 978-0814765524

### Grading and Evaluation

1. 10% - Three Take-home Assignments with Three Corresponding Class Symposia
2. 10% - Final Group Project & Presentation
3. 20% - Weekly Quizzes
4. 60% - Three Essay Exams

**1. Three Take-home Assignments with Three Corresponding Class Symposia (10%):** For each Unit there will be a Take-home Assignment. The first covers *The Crito* and a video about Socrates; the second covers *The*

*Republic*, a video about *The Republic*, as well as a podcast; and the third covers Aristotle's metaphysics and its implications for the philosophy of religion, a video about teleology, and a podcast. After completing the assignment students bring their work in to discuss in a Class Symposium (teaching circle). The Assignments and Class Symposia are graded 0-10 points and convert into 10% weighted grade.

**2. Quiz Grade (20%):** Students are expected to study class notes and do assigned readings on daily basis. There are no make-up quizzes: missed quizzes count against you only if you have no documented excuse for the day that you missed (see attendance policy). You are only allowed to miss one quiz with a documented excuse on your first absence only. Please note: If you miss class and know that there will be a quiz when you return, you are responsible to get notes from a classmate and prepare yourself for the quiz before your return to class.

**3. Exams (60%):** Exams correspond roughly to each third of the course. Exams are hand-written essay exams. Students receive three possible test questions about one week before the exam. On the date of the exam, two of those three questions will be chosen at random. Students answer those two test questions, with the entire class period allowed for response. At a minimum, essay responses should be about 1.5 pages each (making for roughly 3 pages of hand-written response total for the exam). The more detailed the response the better.

**4. Group Presentations (10%):** Students will do a final Group Presentation. A rubric will be provided with specific instructions, however as a preliminary word: all students must participate and have a speaking role, the presentation must last 15 minutes, all items must be turned in for full credit, and all students must be present on the day of presentations.

#### Grade Scale

96-99 = A / 95 = A / 90-94 = A-; 86-89 = B+ / 85 = B / 80-84 = B-; 76-79 = C+ / 75 = C / 70-74 = C-; 66-69 = D+ / 65 = D / 64-60 = D-; 60 and below = F

#### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, or data presented as one's own work. When a student submits for credit work that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific references and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks as well. By placing his/her name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgments. Please note that plagiarism covers unpublished as well as published sources. These statements apply to students who consult Wikipedia, or other online sources, and then recite information found there as if it were their own. Reciting work that is not your own without proper citation will result in a reduced grade (including "F" or zero) for the assignment. More information about the Academic Integrity Policy may be found on pages 32-38 of the Student Handbook.

#### Attendance Policy

Because this class meets only twice per week **two and only two** absences are permitted (technically a "week" of school). Each absence after the second absence will result in one letter grade depreciation per absence unless valid documentation is provided for the reason of the absence. Arriving late does count as an absence, as does persistent use of smartphone (see below). Please arrive to class promptly in order to avoid being marked absent.

#### Late Work

**1. Quizzes:** Due to the fact that this course only meets twice per week, unfortunately there are no make up quizzes. Please note: If you miss class and know that there will be a quiz when you return, *you are responsible to get the notes from a classmate and prepare yourself for the quiz before your return to class.* You are only allowed to miss one quiz with a documented excuse on your first absence only. After your initial absence any further absences will result in 0's in the gradebook for missed quizzes.

**2. Take-home Assignments/Symposia:** Completing the Take-home Assignments is absolutely crucial. I will not accept late assignments beyond the class period that they are due without a valid, documented excuse. Students are expected to closely follow the instructions of the assignments and be prepared to *discuss* their findings with the class during the corresponding Symposium. All Assignments must be typed, provide substantial work that references the materials covered (including videos), and contain well thought out work of integrity. Failure to do so will impact the student's score.

**3. Missed Exams:** Students have one week to make up an exam. If a student misses an exam it is their responsibility to contact the Instructor in order to arrange a make-up exam. Please be prepared to adjust your schedule accordingly to take the make-up if you miss an exam.

### Classroom Procedure

1. Text messaging or any form of cell phone use (including internetting on “smart phones”) is strictly forbidden. If the Instructor finds using smartphones during class to be a problem, the Instructor reserves the right to mark you absent for that class due to smartphone use. Please put all phones and technology away during class.
2. Because of persistent and wide-spread abuse of laptops in classrooms, student will NOT be allowed to use laptops in class. Laptop use for note-taking will require documentation as a special need at which point the screen must be visible to the Instructor at all times. (According to research even when laptops are used solely to take notes, they may still be impairing learning because their use results in shallower processing. See the study, “The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard” by Mueller [Princeton University] and Oppenheimer [UCLA]: *Psychological Science*, Vol. 25 No. 6 (2014):1159-1168.)
3. Regarding class participation, you are expected to be prepared each class (most importantly the Class Symposia). All students are expected to fully contribute to, and participate in, their respective Group Presentations. .
4. Please refrain from private discussion or other disruptive behavior during lecture. Disruptive students are given an immediate verbal warning, if a chronic problem (“three strikes” rule) the student is asked to leave the class.
5. You are expected to have as much fun as possible. ☺

### Students Requiring Special Services and Accommodations

Students with Special Needs (Academic or Otherwise) are encouraged to contact Moravian College's Academic & Disability Support Office. "Moravian College's Academic & Disability Support Office is responsible for serving otherwise qualified students with disabilities, as one of its many functions. Moravian College adheres to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 in ensuring accessibility of its programs and services. The Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support is responsible for assisting the College in providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities enrolled in the College's courses, and serves as a resource for other College departments in regards to serving individuals with disabilities as needed. If you require any information in an alternative format, please contact us." Please see for more information: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>

## COURSE OUTLINE & TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

### **Unit One: The Presocratics; the Birth of the Athenian State; Socrates**

1. The Presocratics
  2. Sophists
  3. Athens: *The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization* (Video segments and lecture; no book for this)
  4. Socrates *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*
- >>Class Symposium & Test Unit One

### **Unit Two: Plato**

1. *Meno* and *Phaedo*
  2. *The Republic*
- >>Class Symposium & Test Unit Two

### **Unit Three: Aristotle and Natural Philosophy (including Hellenistic and early Roman philosophy)**

1. Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, *Logic*, and *Epistemology* (no book for this)
  2. Aristotle *The Nichomachean Ethics*
  3. Epictetus *The Discourses* (if time)
  4. Epicurus *The Art of Happiness* & Seneca *On Tranquility* (if time)
- >>Class Symposium & Group Presentations

>>Test Unit Three (Final Exam)

## Schedule for Spring Term (15 weeks) with Tentative dates

Update to Office Hours: Tues 4-5pm Comenius 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; Thurs. 12-1pm Comenius 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Week of 1/27: Introduction to the Course & What is Philosophy? + Greek Alphabet/Map

### Unit One: Presocratics and Athenian History

Week of 1/27: Presocratics

Week of 2/3: Presocratics + Sophists & Athenian History

Week of 2/10: Socrates *Euthyphro*, *Apology* + Crito Take-Home Assignment #1

Week of 2/17: Crito Class Symposium #1 and Review for Test Unit One

### Unit Two: Plato

Week of 2/24: Test Unit One + Plato *Meno* and *Phaedo*

Week of 3/3: Plato *Republic*

Week of 3/10: Spring Break

Week of 3/17: Plato *Republic* + Republic Take-Home Assignment #2

Week of 3/24: Republic Class Symposium #2 and Review for Test Unit Two

### Unit Three: Aristotle

Week of 3/31: Test Unit Two + Aristotle *Metaphysics* (online text)

Week of 4/7: Aristotle *Nichomachean Ethics*

Week of 4/14: Aristotle *Nichomachean Ethics* + Take-Home Assignment #3

Week of 4/21: Aristotle Nichomachean Ethics Class Symposium #3 and Review for Test Unit Three

Week of 4/28: Presentations + Review for Test Unit Three (Final Exam)

Week of 5/5: Final Exam Week