



**ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
COURSE SYLLABUS**
Moravian College
Spring 2016

PHI 241: Ancient Philosophy

M/W 10:20-11:30AM

Classroom: PPHAC 330

Instructor: Dr. Leon Niemoczynski ("Dr. Leon")

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Office Hours: M 1:30-5:30PM and W 1-2PM, Zinzendorf 102

Course Description

A critical examination of the history of Greek philosophy, including the pre-Socratics, 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. *The Presocratic Philosophers*, by Jonathan Barnes. Routledge, 1993. ISBN: 0-415-05079-0.
2. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*, edited by Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Princeton University Press, 1961. ISBN: 0-691-09718-6.
3. *The Basic Works of Aristotle*, edited by Richard McKeon. Modern Library, 2001. ISBN: 0-375-75799-6.

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. 15% - Three Philosophical Re-enactments
2. 15% - Weekly Quizzes
3. 10% - Homework Assignments
3. 60% - Three in-class Essay Exams

1. Philosophical Re-enactments (15%): For each unit students are assigned placed into groups and *as a group* author and act out before the class a ten minute "play" (scripted by the group) which communicates the main ideas of an assigned reading. For the re-enactment portion all students in the group would receive the same grade. A rubric for re-enactments will be provided; however generally the goal of the reenactment is simply to convey an "abridged" version of the main ideas found within your group's assigned reading and/or assigned philosophical position(s).

2. Weekly Quizzes (15%): Students are expected to study class notes and do assigned readings on a 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. Homework Assignments (10%): Students will be assigned questions that assess the comprehension of assigned readings, class lecture, or, periodically, other course-relevant multimedia which may be assigned outside of the classroom (listening to a podcast, watching a video from home etc.) The main purpose of Homework Assignments is to assess *comprehension* (whereas quizzes assess *retention*); therefore, Homework Assignments serve as excellent centerpieces for class *discussion*. With that said, Homework Assignment responses are expected to be substantial, demonstrate comprehension, and most of all show *effort*. Students should create responses that they have carefully thought about and would be willing to read to the class and discuss. Responses should make direct use of, and reference to, any assigned materials and demonstrate slow, careful, quality work that is not shallow or rushed. When completing Homework Assignments it is imperative to follow the instructions *exactly*. Finally, please note that **all Homework Assignments MUST be typed and stapled when turning in. Work that is not typed and stapled will NOT be accepted.** Homework Assignments are graded as a quiz would be (so out of 100 points). Whereas quizzes generally cover lecture only, Homework Assignments cover both lecture and reading assignments.

4. 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 of hand-written response each (making for roughly 3 pages of hand-written response total for the exam). The more detailed the response the better.

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. Re-enactments and Homework Assignments: 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. Work that is late will be penalized 50% grade reduction and will not be accepted past the second day late. For re-enactments students are expected to closely follow the instructions/rubric. Both assignments (re-enactment scripts and take-home assignments) **MUST** be typed and demonstrate both comprehension and effort. For re-enactments all group members must be present, otherwise the group score will drop one full letter grade per group member missing.

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 or laptops during class to be a problem, the Instructor reserves the right to mark you absent for that class due to your attention not being present.** 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. All students are expected to fully contribute to, and participate in, their respective group work.
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 who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.”

COURSE OUTLINE & TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Unit One: Presocratics and Socrates

Week of 1/18: Introduction to the Class; Presocratics

Week of 1/25: Presocratics and Socrates *Euthyphro*

Week of 2/1: Socrates *Apology* and *Crito*

Week of 2/8: **Re-enactments**, Review for Test Unit One

Unit Two: Plato

Week of 2/15: **Test Unit One**, Socrates/Plato *Phaedo* and *Meno*

Week of 2/22: Plato *Republic*

Week of 2/29: Plato *Republic*

Week of 3/7: *No Class for Spring Break*

Week of 3/14: Plato *Republic*

Week of 3/21: **Re-enactments**, Review for Test Unit Two

Unit Three: Aristotle

Week of 3/28: **Test Unit Two**, Aristotle *On the Soul*

Week of 4/4: Aristotle *Metaphysics*

Week of 4/11: Aristotle *Organon*

Week of 4/18: Aristotle *Nichomachean Ethics*

Week of 4/25: **Re-enactments** and Review for Test Unit Three

5/2 Final Exam Week