

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

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 Office hours: Tu 2-3, W 11-12, Th 2-3 in WAG 123B

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 Tu 1-2, W 3-4 in WAG 229

Lectures: TT 11-12:15 in WAG 302

Sections: W 12 in RAS 313B (32065 / 42405)
 W 1 in RAS 313A (28510 / 42410)
 W 2 in GAR 0.132 (28500 / 42415)

This course is an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy. We'll focus on three major thinkers: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle; and we'll examine their views and arguments on some central questions about human conduct, the natural world, and our knowledge of both. We'll begin with a brief look at some influential earlier figures known as Presocratics and Sophists, and we'll end with a brief look at some enduring ideas of Epicurus. The emphasis throughout will be on analyzing both what these thinkers say and their reasons for saying it. The main goal is not to memorize information but to develop a critical understanding of some problems and arguments that remain very much alive today.

Texts: All required readings are from these three texts, available at the COOP and elsewhere:

Baird & Kaufmann, *Ancient Philosophy* (5th edition; earlier editions ok, but pages differ)
 Plato, *Protagoras* (Taylor translation: Oxford 1996)
 Shields, *Classical Philosophy* (Routledge 2003)

You're welcome to use other texts; but lectures, discussions, and exams will refer to these.

Format and requirements

The course consists of 2 lectures weekly and another hour of discussion; time and place for discussion sections are listed above. Attendance at both is mandatory and affects your grade, as described below.

READING: Required reading is listed in the Syllabus (see next page / backside). Assignments are often short but never easy. It is essential to read (and re-read whenever possible) each selection carefully before class; lectures and discussions presuppose familiarity with the assigned readings.

LECTURES: Attendance is required and recorded on sign-in sheets. You may miss 2 lectures without questions or penalty; each additional absence reduces your total grade by 1%, unless you give me a legitimate excuse (religious holiday, medical or other emergency) AND I accept your excuse.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Attendance is required and recorded on sign-in sheets. You may miss 2 sessions without question or penalty; each additional absence lowers your grade by ½% unless excused by Danielle.

WRITTEN WORK

- WEEKLY RESPONSES:** Questions about current reading or lectures will be posted on Blackboard every Thursday (except before exams); written responses are due in class on the following Tuesdays. Each question will ask you to discuss a specific issue or to formulate a question or objection of your own. Responses should be typed, 1 page max. Overall 10 responses are required, no more than 1 any week. Satisfactory work earns full credit; unsatisfactory work earns partial credit; outstanding work earns a small bonus (½% each time); scholastic dishonesty receives a double penalty (0 credit for 2 responses).
- MIDTERM EXAMS:** The format will be short answer and essay; sample questions will be posted a week in advance. The first covers weeks 1-5 (mainly Socrates); the second covers weeks 6-10 (mainly Plato).
- FINAL EXAM:** Format like midterms; cumulative but mainly weeks 9-15. NO early exams.

Grades: weekly responses 15%, midterms 25% each, final 30%, participation 5%. (A ≥ 90, B = 80-9.5 etc.)

Other policies

Make-up exams: granted only for exceptional and fully documented reasons (as under Lectures above).

Academic Integrity: All graded work must be your own. Scholastic dishonesty (any kind of copying or cheating) on graded work receives 0%. See: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Special Accommodations: UT Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Information at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/>

SYLLABUS

BK = Baird & Kaufmann, *Ancient Philosophy* (pp in 5th ed.); Shields = *Classical Philosophy*

Date	Topic	Reading assignment
1. Jan. 20	Introduction / Inauguration	NB: sections do NOT meet this week.
Jan. 22	The first philosophers	Milesians, Xenophanes (BK 1-13, 17-8); Shields pp 1-9
2. Jan. 27	Change and multiplicity	Heraclitus, Parmenides (BK 18-26); Shields pp 9-18
Jan. 29	Being and unity	Parmenides, Zeno (BK 22-30); Shields pp 13-20

I. SOCRATES

3. Feb. 3	Sophists	<i>Protagoras</i> 309-340 + BK 43-4; Shields pp 24-30
Feb. 5	Socratic questions	<i>Euthyphro</i> (BK 70-82); Shields pp 33-45
4. Feb. 10	Socrates on trial	<i>Apology</i> (BK 82-99)
Feb. 12	Virtue and knowledge	<i>Protagoras</i> 348-end; Shields pp 45-51
5. Feb. 17	Justice and law	<i>Crito</i> (BK 99-107); Shields pp 51-6
* Feb. 19	Midterm Exam #1: covering weeks 1-5 (Presocratics, Sophists, Socrates)	

II. PLATO

6. Feb. 24	Plato's project	<i>Meno</i> 70-100 (BK 151-75); Shields pp 59-66
Feb. 26	Souls and forms	<i>Phaedo</i> 57-90 (BK 108-32); Shields pp 70-80
7. Mar. 3	Platonic explanation	<i>Phaedo</i> 91-118 (BK 132-50)
Mar. 5	TBA	
8. Mar. 10	Justice and function	<i>Republic</i> 1-2 (BK 210-33)
Mar. 12	Virtue and desire	<i>Republic</i> 3-4 (BK 233-49); Shields pp 86-95

Spring Break: March 14-22

9. Mar. 24	Platonic justice	<i>Republic</i> 5 (BK 249-71)
Mar. 26	Knowledge and belief	<i>Republic</i> 6-7 (BK 271-83); Shields pp 80-6
10. Mar. 31	Platonic problems	<i>Parmenides</i> (BK 283-90); Shields pp 98-103
* April 2	Midterm Exam #2: covering weeks 6-10 (mainly Plato)	

III. ARISTOTLE

11. April 7	Aristotle's project	<i>Metaphysics</i> 1 (BK 338-53); Shields pp 109-11
April 9	Substance and attribute	<i>Categories, Interpretation</i> (BK 313-22); Shields pp 111-16
12. April 14	Matter and form	<i>Physics</i> 2.1-3 (BK 327-31); Shields pp 116-22
April 16	Teleology	<i>Physics</i> 2.4-9 (BK 331-8); Shields pp 122-32
13. April 21	Soul and life	<i>On Soul</i> (BK 364-9); Shields pp 132-6
April 23	Human nature	<i>Ethics</i> 1 (BK 369-83); Shields pp 136-41
14. April 28	Virtue and happiness	<i>Ethics</i> 2 (BK 383-92)
April 30	Responsibility	<i>Ethics</i> 3 (BK 392-400)
15. May 5	Rational action	<i>Ethics</i> 7 (BK 415-25)
May 7	Epicurean pleasures	<i>To Menoeceus, Principal Doctrines</i> (BK 474-81)
* May 14	Final Exam, Thursday 9-12: cumulative but mainly weeks 9-15 (Aristotle)	

Further reading (optional): Both BK and Shields provide suggestions for further reading; here are a few that should be more helpful than most (all in PCL):

T. Irwin, *Classical Thought* (1989): a comprehensive survey with succinct analysis.

J. Barnes, *Early Greek Philosophy* (1987): excerpts from Presocratics with brief analysis.

C.C.W. Taylor, *Socrates: A Very Short Introduction* (2000): balanced and concise discussion.

J. Annas, *Plato: A Very Short Introduction* (2003): concise survey of major issues and ideas.

G. Fine, *Oxford Handbook of Plato* (2008): essays on key topics by leading specialists.

T. Irwin, *Aristotle: Introductory Readings* (1996): more excerpts with helpful notes and glossary.

J. Ackrill, *Aristotle the Philosopher* (1981): concise discussion of major issues.

J. Barnes, *Cambridge Companion to Aristotle* (1995): essays on major topics by leading specialists.