

Instructor: Sara Magrin

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Office hours: Th 11:30 am – 12:30 pm and by appointment CL 1029D (Department of Philosophy, Left Wing)

**PHIL 0200/20858: History of Ancient Philosophy
Fall 2024 (T/Th 10:00-10:50 am)
CL 324**

Course Delivery

This course, including recitation and writing sessions, will be in-person only.

The Syllabus is available on Canvas. Look in “Files” (left hand side), and there you will find:

- 1) The Syllabus
- 2) Focus questions to help you approach the weekly readings
- 3) All the class outlines in sequential order plus other course-related material
- 4) The reader (required)
- 5) The prompts for the essays and for the exam (in the folder “Assignments”). For the dates when these will be posted online see below in Requirements

Course Description

The goal of this course is to offer an introduction to ancient Greek philosophy. We will start by examining the kind of philosophical questions in which the first Greek philosophers, the so-called pre-Socratics, were interested. These were primarily questions about natural philosophy, and especially about the first causes of the world and the place of human beings in it. The pre-Socratics will provide us with the background we need to explore the complex figure of Socrates and his analysis of what a good life consists in. What should we care for in order to live well, Socrates wondered, money, political power, or something else? He argued that, to live well, we should care for our soul. But what is a soul, and what does it mean to care for it? To answer these questions, we will examine Plato’s psychology and metaphysics and Aristotle’s criticism of them. Despite their differences, both Plato and Aristotle thought that, to have a good life, a human being had to be virtuous, but should we conclude from this that virtue is all one needs to be happy? We will end the course by considering two different answers to this question: that of the Epicureans, who thought that a flourishing life was a life of pleasure and viewed virtue only as a means to achieve pleasure, and that of the Stoics, who thought, in contrast, that virtue was all one needed to be happy.

Required Texts (we must use the same texts; different texts are NOT allowed)

G. M. A. Grube, *Plato, Five Dialogues*, Hackett 2002. (University Bookstore; Kindle version available on Amazon as well as many second-hand copies)

G. R. F. Ferrari and T. Griffith, *Plato: The Republic*, Cambridge University Press 2000. (University Bookstore; many second-hand copies available on Amazon)

T. Irwin and G. Fine, *Aristotle Selections*, Hackett 1995. (University Bookstore; Kindle version available on Amazon as well as many second-hand copies)

All the texts included in the reader, which can be downloaded from the Canvas website for this course.

Requirements

NB: A third of a letter grade per day will be deducted on any late assignment starting from the day the assignment was due.

For 3 credits

- **Recitation participation (15%)** you are required to attend the sessions and to complete any assignments your TA might give you.
- **Essay 1 (about 500 words, 20%)** short paper on an assigned topic. **The topic will be assigned in Canvas on T. September 17. To be submitted in Canvas on Tuesday, September 24 by midnight.**
- **Essay 2 (about 500 words 20%)** short paper on an assigned topic. **The topic will be assigned in Canvas on Th. October 17. To be submitted in Canvas on Tuesday, October 24 by midnight.**
- **Essay 3 (about 500 words 20%)** short paper on an assigned topic. **The topic will be assigned in Canvas on Th. November 14. To be submitted in Canvas on Thursday, November 21 by midnight.**
- **Final exam (25%)** take-home exam. You will be required to give short answers to 10 questions that will test your familiarity with the texts we read. **The final exam will be posted in Canvas on the last day of our class (December 10). To be submitted in Canvas on Friday December 13 by midnight.**

NB: Since grades are due by December 17 THE FINAL CANNOT be postponed.

For 4 credits

- **Recitation participation (15%)**

- **Essay 1 (1000 words, 30%)** short paper on an assigned topic (**same topic, same dates as the 3-credit class, but longer essay**).
- **Essay 2 (2200/2500 words, 15%)** draft of long paper. The topic will be assigned on Canvas on Thursday, October 17. **To be submitted in Canvas by October 29.**
- **Revision of Essay 2 (20%)** revision of the draft. **To be submitted in Canvas by Thursday, November 28.**
- **Final Exam (20%)** same format and dates as for the 3-credit version, but 8 questions instead of 10.

Tentative schedule (there may be changes to this schedule)

Week 1: Early Greek philosophy

(T August 27) The Timeline

(Th August 29) Hesiod, Xenophanes, Parmenides [these texts are in the reader pp. 1-17—the page number is in the middle of the page on the left side, read only the circled fragments]

Week 2: Socrates

(T September 3) Socrates and the early Greek philosophers: Democritus; Aristophanes' *Clouds* [these texts are in the reader pp. 18-36]; *Apology* (in *Plato, Five Dialogues*, (from the beginning up to 24b included),

(Th September 5) *Apology* (from 28b to the end); *Meno* (from 87d till the end of the dialogue, in *Plato, Five Dialogues*);

Week 3: Plato and the Sophists: soul and justice

(T September 10) *Greater Hippias* (from the beginning of the dialogue up to 291c included) [this text is in the reader pp. 37-44]; *Phaedo* (from the beginning of the dialogue up to 70b included, in *Plato, Five Dialogues*);

(Th September 12) *Phaedo* from 72e till 75b included; *Phaedo* from 82e ("I will tell you, he said...") up to 84b included

Week 4: Plato on soul and justice

(T September 17) *Republic* Book 1 (from the beginning up to 334b included); *Republic* Book 1 (from 336b up to 344c included)

(Th. September 19) *Republic* Book 1 (from 348b up to the end of Book 1); *Republic* Book 2 (from the beginning of the book up to 362c included)

Week 5: The *Republic*: what is justice and is it worth pursuing it?

(T September 24) Recap of *Republic* Book 2 (from the beginning of the book up to 362c included); *Republic* Book 2 (from 368c up to the end of Book 2 quick reading); *Republic* Book 3 (from 411e up to the end of Book 3 quick reading)

(Th September 26) *Republic* Book 4 (from the beginning of the book up to 427c included, quick reading); *Republic* Book 4 (from 427d up to 435d included)

Week 6: The *Republic*: the just city and the just soul

(T October 1) *Republic* Book 4 (from 435e up to the end of Book 4)
(Th. October 3) *Republic* Book 5 (from 455b up to 460a included); *Republic* Book 5 (from 471e up to 477b included, and from 479a up to the end of the book)

Week 7: The *Republic*: justice, happiness, and the knowledge of the good.

(T October 8) *Republic* Book 6 (from the beginning of the book up to 485 excluded); *Republic* Book 6 (from 504d up to the end of the book)
(Th. October 10) Recap of *Republic* Book 6 (from 504d up to the end of the book); *Republic* Book 7 (from the beginning of the book up to 521b included)

Week 8: Aristotle's philosophy of nature

(T October 15) Break
(Th October 17) *Physics* Book 2 chapters 1-3 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 95-105)

Week 9: Aristotle on the soul

(T October 22) Recap of *Physics* Book 2 chapters 1-3; *Physics* Book 2 chapters 8-9 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 114-119)
(Th October 24) *On the Soul* Book 2 chapters 1-4 up to 415b 25 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 176-185) and (in this order) *On the Soul* Book 1 chapter 4 from 408b 5-408b 20 (= Irwin & Fine pp. 175-176)

Week 10: Aristotle's ethics: moral and intellectual virtues Part 1

(T October 29) *On the Soul* Book 3 chapters 4-5 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 198-202); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 1 chapters 1-5 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 347-352)
(Th October 31) *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 1 chapters 7-10 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 354-363); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 1 chapter 13 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 363-365)

Week 11: Aristotle's ethics: moral and intellectual virtues Part 2

(T November 5) *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 2 chapter 1 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 366-367); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 2 chapters 5-7 (Irwin & Fine pp. 371-376)

(Th November 7) *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 3 chapters 1-5 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 376-388); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 6 chapters 1-2 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 398-400); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 6 chapter 5 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 401-403);

Week 12: Aristotle's *Metaphysics*: the first cause on which the world depends.

(T November 12) *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 6 chapter 7 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 403-405); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 6 chapters 12-13 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 407-410); *Nicomachean Ethics* Book 10 chapter 7 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 440-442 quick reading)

(Th November 14) *Metaphysics* Book 1 chapters 1-2 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 221-227); *Metaphysics* Book 4 chapter 1 and chapter 2 up to 1003b 18 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 244-246); *Metaphysics* Book 12 chapter 6 up to 1071b 22 (Irwin & Fine pp. 332-3)

Week 13: Hellenistic Philosophy Part 1

(T November 19) *Metaphysics* Book 12 chapter 7 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 335-338), and chapters 9-10 (=Irwin & Fine pp. 342-344)

(Th. November 21) Introducing Hellenistic Philosophy (Epicureans, Sceptics, and Stoics); Epicurus' cosmology and theology (LS, i.e. Long&Sedley, 13A, B, F, H) [these texts are in the reader pp. 45-50].

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14: Hellenistic Philosophy Part 2

(T December 3) Epicurus' ethics (LS 21A; LS 24 E; LS 25 J) [in the reader pp. 51-54]; Stoic physics (LS 44B, C, D, E; 45C, G) [in the reader pp. 55-58]

(Th December 5) Stoic psychology (LS 55J, K, L, and LS 53F, G, Q, S) [in the reader pp. 59-60]

Week 15

(T December 10) Stoic ethics (LS 61A, D, F, H, I, O, and LS63 A, C, D, E, M) [in the reader pp. 61 ff.]

Please be aware that plagiarism is a serious offence. Copying a string of words or sentences, summarizing other texts without acknowledging the source, using AI tools to produce writing are all forms of plagiarism. In this course a PLAGIARIZED paper or exam will receive an F equivalent to 0, and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators. To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the Academic Integrity Guide for an overview of the topic. For hands-on practice, complete the Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism tutorial.

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Health and Safety

In the midst of this pandemic, it is extremely important that you abide by public health regulations and University of Pittsburgh health standards and guidelines. While in class, at a minimum this means that you must wear a face covering and comply with physical distancing requirements; other requirements may be added by the University during the semester. These rules have been developed to protect the health and safety of all community members. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in you not being permitted to attend class in person and could result in a Student Conduct violation. For the most up-to-date information and guidance, please visit coronavirus.pitt.edu and check your Pitt email for updates before each class.