



Course Title	Credits
Introduction to Greek Philosophy	2
Lecturer	
Dr. Amit Baratz	
Contact Details	
Amitbaratz@gmail.com Office hours by appointment	
Semester	
Spring 2024	
Short Description	
Ancient Greek philosophy encompasses a thousand years of creation. The Greeks not only established the field of philosophy, but its works provided endless inspiration for all generations. The Greeks defined philosophy, its areas of discussion, created tools for philosophic discourse, and developed key terms and subjects. This course explores Greek philosophy's works and ideas from all periods.	

Final grade components

Midterm: Take home exam on the Sophists and the pre–Socratic philosophers – 19% Final requirement: Take home exam, 4–6 pages – 71%

Preparation, Two Quizzes (each worth 3 points), Participation: 10%

Course schedule

Class no. / Date	Subject and Requirements (assignments, reading materials, tasks, etc.)
1	From Mythos to Logos
	Hesiod, Homer, the Bible, and the Milesian school
	Reading:
	Hesiod, Theogony, 116–138
	Genesis 1
	Optional:
	W.K.C. Guthrie, The Greek Philosophers, From Thales to Aristotle. Chapter 1





7	The Socratic Paradoxes
	A.E. Taylor, Socrates: The Man and His Thought, 147–156
	Optional:
	Reading: Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> ; selections from <i>Symposium</i>
	Deading
6	The Structure(s) of the Platonic Dialogues
	Plato, <i>Crito</i>
	Optional and Recommended:
	Plato, <i>Apology</i> , the end of <i>Phaedo</i>
	Reading:
5	Life and Death of Socrates
	R. Sprague, The Older Sophists, 3–29
	W.K.C. Guthrie, <i>The Sophists</i> , 181–188, 262–269
	Optional:
	Gorgias, Encomiun of Helen
	R. Waterfield, <i>The First Philosophers</i> , 205–240
	Reading:
4	The Sophists
	R. Waterfield, <i>The First Philosophers</i> , 32–48; 133–163
	Reading:
	Achophanes and Familiaes
3	Xenophanes and Parmenides
	Optional: A. Finkelberg, Heraclitus and Thale's Conceptual Scheme, 237–256
	R. Waterfield, The First Philosophers, 3–21
	Reading:
	The Thaletan Conceptual Scheme
2	Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes:
	"Greek Ways of Thinking", 1–21





	Reading:
	Varia from several Platonic dialogues
8	Three Allegories: The Sun, The Divined Line, The Cave
	Reading:
	Plato, <i>Republic</i> 6–7, 506–517
	Optional:
	W.D. Ross, Plato's Theory of Ideas, 38–82
9	Aristotle on Physics and Metaphysics
	Reading:
	Physics 2.1, 3
	Metaphysica 8.8, 11.6–9
10	Aristotle on Virtue, Happiness, and the Ideal State.
	Reading:
	Ethica Nichomachea 1.1–5
	Politics 8.1–3
11	Aristotle on the Most Beautiful Tragedy
	Reading:
	<i>Poetica</i> , 1.6, 13
12	Greaco–Roman Stoicism: Marcus Aurelius
	Reading:
	Marus Aurelius, <i>Exhortations</i> book 1, 2.12–23, 3.4–9
	Optional:
	P. Hadot, The Inner Citadel: The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius, 35–53
This schee	lule is tentative and may change as the course progresses
Required	course reading





The Presocratic and Sophists: Waterfield, R. (translator). The First Philosophers.

Gorgias: Encomiun of Helen

<u>Plato</u>: *Apology, Euthyphro, The Republic, Symposium, varia* from other dialogues. <u>Aristotle</u>: *Physica* (2.1, 3); *Metaphysica* (8.8, 11.6–9); *Ethica Nicomachea* (1, 1–5) *Politica* (8.1–3)

Marcus Aurelius, Exhortations 1; 2.12–23, 3.4–9.

Optional course reading

General

Pre Socratic–Philosophy

- 1. J. Burnet, Early Greek Philosophy (London, 1930).
- 2. K. Freeman, Ancilla to the Presocratic Philosophers (Oxford, 1948).
- 3. W.K.C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy, vols. 1–2 (Cambridge, 1962–9)
- 4. G.S. Kirk, J.E. Raven & M. Schofield, *The Presocratic Philosophers* (Cambridge, 2nd ed., 1984).
- 5. A. Finkelberg, *Heraclitus and Thale's Conceptual Scheme: A Historical Study* (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2017).

The Sophists

- 1. G.B. Kerferd, The Sophistic Movement (Cambridge, 1981).
- 2. M. Untersteiner, The Sophists (Oxford, 1954).
- 3. W.K.C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy, Vol. 3, Part 1 (Cambridge, 1969).
- 4. R. K. Sprague, The Older Sophists (Indianapolis ,2001).

Socrates

- 1. A.E. Taylor, Socrates: The Man and His Thought (New York, 1953).
- 2. W.K.C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy, Vol. 3, Part 2 (Cambridge, 1969).
- 3. G.X. Santas, Socrates (London: 1979).
- 4. G. Vlastos, Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher (Cambridge, 1991).

Plato

- 1. A.E. Taylor, Plato, The Man and His Work (London, 1929).
- 2. I.M. Crombie, An Examination of Plato's Doctrines, 2 vols. (London, 1962–1963).
- 3. W.K.C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy, vol. IV–V (Cambridge, 1975–8).
- 4. D. Ross, Plato's Theory of Ideas (Oxford, 1951).





Aristotle

- 1. W.D. Ross, Aristotle (London, 1923; New York, 1959).
- 2. D.J. Allan, The Philosophy of Aristotle (2nd., ed.; Oxford, 1970).
- 3. W.K.C. Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy VI (Cambridge, 1981).
- 4. J. Barnes, Aristotle (Oxford, 1996).

Stoicism and Marcus Aurelius

- 1. A.A. Long, Hellenistic Philosophy. 2nd ed. London, 1986, Chapter 4.
- 2. E. Asmis, 'The Stoicism of Marcus Aurelius,' *Austieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt*, II.36.3, 1989, 2228–2252.
- 3. P. Hadot, *The Inner Citadel: The* Meditations *of Marcus Aurelius*, M. Chase (trans.), (Cambridge, MA, 1998).

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Submitting a written assignment generated by AI in part or in whole without specific permission of the instructor is a form of plagiarism.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. The Program understands that there are occasions on which it is not possible for students to attend classes and/or unplanned events such as illness and outside commitments can prevent students from reaching campus. For this reason, *if absolutely necessary*, we allow students to miss up to four (4) sessions of each 4–credit course per semester will need to be absent. Note that this allowance *includes* short–term illness, *even with presentation of a doctor's note*. Students who exceed these absences will face a grade penalty, and in extreme cases may not be able to complete the course/submit the final assignment or exam^{*}. Note that individual instructors *are not authorized* to allow any additional absences.

Final assignment





Take home Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Late papers will be subject to a point deduction.^{*See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details}Students requiring an extension for a final paper must submit an Academic Committee Request Form to the Liberal Arts office in advance of the deadline.

Comments

Students are expected to read the sources. This demands effort, patience, and often the use of commentaries on the text. Luckily, there are excellent commentaries on ancient Greek philosophy written by exceptional scholars.

^{*}See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details