

PHIL 3---: Classical Greek and Mediterranean Philosophy

Class Time: TBD

Class Location: TBD

Instructor: Chris Rahlwes

Email: TBD

How to reach me: *Please drop by my open office hours (TBD) or email me to make an appointment (either in-person or online). Always include PHIL 3--- in the subject of your email for a quicker response. I will respond within 48 hours Monday-Friday.*



Course Description:

In this course we look at the formative period of Mediterranean Philosophy in the Greek speaking world. We will focus on philosophers before Socrates (esp. Eleatic and Ionian philosophers) and, then, the traditions that follow Socrates' impact in Athens. This will include Plato and Aristotle, but it also includes Epicureans, Stoics, Pyrrhonian Sceptics, and the formation of Neo-Platonism by Plotinus. The main topics we will focus on are metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and logic. We will also address questions:

- what the good life is?
- what does it mean for us to live good lives?

In so doing, you will reflect on how we should live our lives.

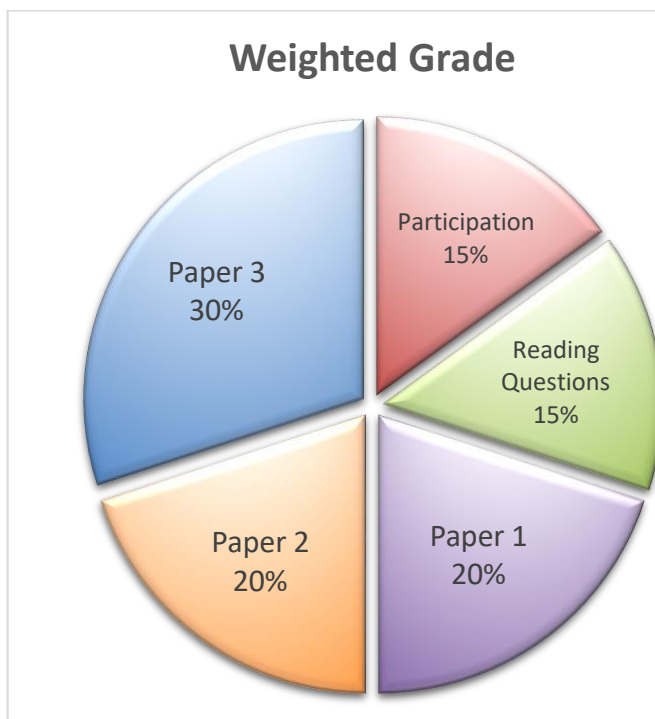
Course Goals:

By the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and summarize the main “schools” of Greek speaking Mediterranean philosophy.
 2. Evaluate and analyze the arguments made by these schools of philosophy regarding metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.
 3. Engage in interpretive debates surrounding issues in the texts covered.
 4. Advance positions based on these texts using the tools of philosophical argument.
 5. Develop a research project focusing on a Greek philosophical text, in which you carefully and with great precision explain a key philosophical principle in that text.
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Means of Evaluation

- **Participation (15%).** Participation will be measured through active class engagement as well as group questions and workshops.
- **Reading Questions (15%).** The Sunday before each class you are required to email two questions you have regarding the readings for the week (at least one question must be on the primary text). These will help guide the lecture throughout the week.
- **Paper 1 (20%) 4–6 Pages.** This paper focuses on your ability to explain a key philosophical principle clearly and precisely from one of our texts. Your grade is determined by your accuracy in demonstrating you understand the author’s position, the structure of your paper, and if your argument is compelling. You are allowed up to two revisions of this paper.
- **Paper 2 (20%) 4–6 Pages.** Same as Paper 1, but you must focus on a different author or text.
- **Paper 3 (30%) 8–10 Pages.** This paper is a revision of Paper 1 or Paper 2, in which you further develop your explanation, ideas, and/or argument. This paper is the culmination of the course and shows your ability in designing a research project that is philosophically fruitful. You will be asked to submit a brief prospectus for this paper.



Letter Grade Cutoffs:

Grade	Percentage
A	93%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	73%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	63%
D-	60%
F	Below 60%

Note: These are cut-off points: *decimals will not be rounded up.* Temporary grades: N (no basis for grade), I (incomplete grade), X (final assessment absence)

Required Materials:

- All course readings will be available online.
(When possible, I will include the readings as an audiobook as well.)
- You will need to bring material to write, take notes, and access the internet during class.
- You will need a word processor (such as [Google Docs](#) or [Microsoft Word](#)), a pdf reader (such as [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)), and a web browser.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

	Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments
Introduction			
Week 1		Introduction to the Course <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics A</i>, selection on early philosophers 	
Module 1: The Pre-Socratics and Socrates			
Week 2		Parmenides and the Eleatic School <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parmenides, <i>On Nature</i> • Gorgias, <i>On Nature</i> • Xeno's Recorded Paradoxes 	Weekly Questions
Week 3		The Ionian School <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thales, fragments • Anaximander, fragments 	Weekly Questions
Week 4		Heraclitus and Empedocles <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heraclitus, fragments • Empedocles, fragments 	Weekly Questions
Week 5		Isocrates and Socrates <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isocrates, <i>Antidosis</i>, selections • Plato, <i>Apology</i> 	Weekly Questions
Module 2: Plato			
Week 6		The <i>Phaedo</i> and the <i>Phaedrus</i> <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> • Plato, <i>Phaedrus</i> 	Weekly Questions

Week 7		The <i>Euthyphro</i> and The <i>Meno</i> <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> • Plato, <i>Meno</i> 	Weekly Questions
Week 8		The <i>Parmenides</i> and The <i>Symposium</i> <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato, <i>Parmenides</i>, selections • Plato, <i>Symposium</i>, selections 	Paper 1 Due Weekly Questions
Module 3: Aristotle			
Week 9		Physics and Metaphysics <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, <i>Physics</i>, Book II, selections • Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i>, selections 	Weekly Questions
Week 10		Nicomachean Ethics <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, selections 	Weekly Questions
Module 4: Philosophy After Plato and Aristotle			
Week 11		Epicurus and Lucertus <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceaus</i> • Epicurus, <i>Letter to Herodotus</i> • Lucretius, <i>De Rerum Natura</i>, Books I and II, selections 	Weekly Questions
Week 12		Epictetus and Seneca <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epictetus, <i>Enchiridion</i>, selections • Seneca, <i>Letter to Lucilius</i>, selections 	Paper 2 Due Weekly Questions
Week 13		Pyrrho and Plotinus <u>Required Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sextus Empiricus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> • Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i>, selections 	Weekly Questions
Finals Week			Paper 3 Due

Resources Available to All Students: **TBD**

College is a challenging time in your life.

Here is a list of resources that can help you navigate your experience as a student at TBD. It is important to remember that you are not alone, and these resources are there for you when you need help to achieve your academic goals.