

PHIL 248: Ancient Philosophy

General Information:

Term: 2022 Summer Session

Instructor: Staff

Language of Instruction: English

Classroom: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Class Sessions Per Week: 5

Total Weeks: 5

Total Class Sessions: 25

Class Session Length (minutes): 145

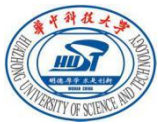
Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

This course aims to understand the ancient Greek philosophy with focus on the exploration of most influential philosophical literature in the history of human thought. In the first week, we will begin with the discussion on Pre-Socratic thinkers. Then in the following three weeks, we will proceed to a critical study to selected dialogues of Plato and selections from the major surviving works of Plato's best student, Aristotle. In the last week, we will concentrate on Post-Socratics and its influence on Medieval philosophy. Some of the major doctrines of the Stoics, Epicureans and Skeptics and the Neoplatonist Plotinus will be introduced in this week. In-class discussion and pre-reading assigned philosophical literature before each class is required in this course.

Course Format and Requirements:

Students will go through the material principally by means of lectures and visual presentations, and also in-class discussion and assigned readings. It will be hard for you to achieve a good grade in this course without regular attendance. Please turn off all cell



phones during lecture. No texting during class lectures. You are encouraged to ask questions since extra credit may be given for thoughtful questions.

Attendance:

Attendance is not mandatory. However, to make the most of this class, regular attendances are expected. Missing a class will cause you to miss a class discussion session, which is essential for success in this course. Not attending classes or constantly arriving late for them will ultimately have a negative impact on your overall performance.

Course Materials:

Readings in ancient Greek philosophy: from Thales to Aristotle, by Cohen, S. M., Curd, P., & Reeve, C. D. C. (Eds.). (2016). Hackett Publishing.

Course Assignments:

Quizzes

There will be 5 quizzes administered through the whole semester and the lowest one will be dropped. Quizzes will always be completed in the first ten minutes of class. There will be no make-up quizzes.

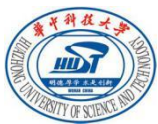
Midterm Exam

An in-class, close-book and non-cumulative midterm exam will be given through this course. The midterm exams will be based on the knowledge covered in class. No excuse will be accepted if students do not have legitimate excuses for absence. Physician Statement is required for missing the exam due.

Papers

There will be two paper assignments. Each paper should be between 1370 and 1500 words long. The papers together will count for 30% of your grade for the course. Each paper will count equally to 15%. Topics will be made available two weeks before papers are due. All papers must be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins all around.

Final Exam



The final will be close-book, consisted of short-answer and essay questions, covering material from the entire term, including in-class discussion content. Note that the final will not be taken during the normal class times. Exact time and location for final will be announced later.

Course Assessment:

Quizzes	15%
Participation	10%
Papers	30%
Midterm	20%
Final	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

Course Schedule:



Week	Topics	Activities
1.	The Presocratics & the Sophists Topics will mainly focus on presocratics, including Milesians and Pythagoreans; Xenophanes and Heraclitus; Eleatics: Parmenides, Zeno, and Melissus; Pluralists and Atomists.	Quiz 1 Discussion
2.	Socrates Through Platonic dialogues, student can take a peek at the figure of Socrates. Following dialogue will be appreciated and discussed: Protagoras, Apology, Euthyphro, Meno.	Quiz 2 Discussion Paper 1 Distribution
3.	Plato By looking into Plato's other work, students can grasp Plato philosophy. Phaedo, Republic II-X, and Symposium will be read and discussed.	Quiz 3 Discussion Review Midterm
4.	Aristotle Students will look into Aristotle's major surviving work, including Metaphysics, De Anima I & II, Nichomachean Ethics, and Politics.	Quiz 4 Discussion Paper 2 Distribution
	The Influence: Post-Aristotelian Philosophy	Quiz 5



5.	Doctrines of the Stoics, Epicureans and Skeptics and the Neoplatonist Plotinus will be discussed in this section to unravel the influence of ancient philosophy on Medieval philosophy.	Discussion Review Paper 1 & Paper 2 Due Final Exam
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Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Huazhong University of Science and Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.