

Philosophy 300: Ancient Greek Philosophy

Course Description: This course surveys the essential content of the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle and considers more briefly some of the earlier thinkers whose ideas form the immediate context for their works. We will begin with dialogues in which Plato's is thought to give a reasonable accurate depiction of his mentor Socrates, and will focus on the ethical theses defended in these works and on the standards for knowledge presupposed by them. We will then observe how these theses and standards, in combination with certain ideas and problems from pre-Socratic thought, lead Plato to develop the first philosophical system: an integrated set of ideas about the fundamental nature of reality, man, knowledge, and value. We will then turn to Aristotle's formulation of the principles of logic and the structure of science. Finally, we will study Aristotle's own philosophical system, with a focus on the ways in which it is similar to and different from Plato's.

Course and Instructor Information:

Instructor: Gregory Salmieri

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Class Meetings: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2:00 to 3:00 P.M.,
CAS 227

Required Texts:

Plato, *Republic*, Translated by C. D. C. Reeve, Hackett 2004. [[Amazon](#)] [[BN](#)].

Aristotle, *Aristotle: Introductory Readings*, edited and translated by Terrence Irwin and Gail Fine, Hackett 1995. [[Amazon](#)] [[BN](#)].

Other readings will be made available electronically via Blackboard.

Assessment:

Quizzes (15%): There will be at least ten quizzes during the term, all administered electronically via Blackboard. The average grade from these quizzes will make up 15% of the semester grade. Students will have the opportunity to take each quiz two times, and only the higher grade will be counted.

Tests (20%): There will be four tests, also administered electronically over Sakai, each worth 5% of the semester grade. Unlike the quizzes, the tests will be timed, and each student will only have one opportunity to take it.

Short Writing Assignment (5%): There will be one short (approximately two-page) writing assignment worth 5% of the semester grade.

Papers (60%): There will be four papers, each of four to six pages, and each counting for 15% of the semester average.

Class Schedule: A tentative schedule of readings is available on the Blackboard site. It will be updated as necessary throughout the term. I reserve the right to alter the schedule so long as the following conditions are met: (1) no readings or quiz is assigned less than 36 hours before it is due, (2) no test or writing assignment is announced less than a week prior to its due date or made available to students less than four days prior to its due date, and (3) no writing assignment of more than three pages is announced less than three weeks before it is due date or made available to students less than ten days before its due date.

Plagiarism, The Academic Conduct Code, and the use of Unassigned

Sources: Violations of the University's [Academic Conduct Code](#), including cheating on the tests or plagiarizing on the papers, will not be tolerated. Any student found guilty of either offence will fail the course, and may be subject to other disciplinary action. Because there is rampant confusion among students about what constitutes plagiarism, students who have not already done so are required to read the lengthy and useful discussion of the matter in Conduct Code. If you have any questions about how the code applies to the course assignments, I will be happy to discuss them. The papers assigned for this course are not research papers and should not require consulting unassigned materials. The point of the papers is, rather, for you to engage thoughtfully with the assigned readings. You are free to consult other sources as well, if they help you to achieve this end, but you must take care to document them appropriately.

Class Schedule: This schedule is tentative and will be updated as necessary over the course of the semester. It was last updated on Saturday, October 26, 2013. Assignments listed in black (and blue, where there are hyperlinks) are mandatory, whereas assignments listed in grey are optional.

Wednesday, January 16

Class 1

- Class Syllabus
- Academic Conduct Code
- Beginning of semester survey due by 11:59 P.M.

Friday, January 18

Class 2

- “[Phusikoi, Geometers, and Sophists](#)” (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Plato, [Protagoras](#), 310b-319a
- Plato, [Apology](#)
- Salmieri, [Budget Tour](#), A and B
- Adamson, “[Everything is Full of Gods: Thales](#)” (Podcast)
- Adamson, “[Making the Weaker Argument the Stronger: The Sophists](#)” (Podcast)
- Adamson, “[In Dialogue: the Life and Writings of Plato](#)” (Podcast)
- Quiz 1 due by noon

Wednesday, January 23

Class 3

- Review readings from Class 2

Friday, January 25

Class 4

- Plato, [Laches](#), 184d-192b
- Plato, [Meno](#), 70a-77a
- Plato, [Euthyphro](#)
- Salmieri, “[Analyzing and Assessing Arguments](#),” Sections 1, 2, 4.1, and 4.3.
- Quiz 2 due by noon

Monday, January 28

Class 5

- Review readings from Class 4
- First Writing Assignment due by 11:59 P.M.

Wednesday, January 30

Class 6

- Plato, [Meno](#), 77b-79e
- Plato, [Gorgias](#), 466b-468e
- Plato, [Protagoras](#), 319b-320c, 329b-330b, 332a-334c, 349b-362a
- Quiz 3 due by noon

Friday, February 01

Class 7

- Plato, [Euthydemus](#), 278e-282d
- Plato, [Protagoras](#), 468e-472c, 474b-475e

- Plato, [Philebus](#), 11b-d, 20b-23a

Monday, February 04

Class 8

- Plato, [Gorgias](#), 507a-e, 508c-509a
- Adamson, "[Method Man: Plato's Socrates](#)"

Wednesday, February 06

Class 9

- Adamson, "[The Man with the Golden Thigh: Pythagoras](#)" (Podcast)
- Salmieri, [Budget Tour](#), C.
- Salmieri, "[The Development of Greek Geometry](#)" (PowerPoint Presentation)
- Plato, [Meno](#), 80a-87d
- Quiz 4 due by noon.

Friday, February 08

Class 10:

We will not meet in person, but you are required to do the assigned reading, to listen to the podcast linked to, and to take the quiz by the specified time.

- Salmieri, [Budget Tour](#), D-E
- Adamson, "[Old Man River: Heraclitus](#)" (Podcast)
- Adamson, "[The Road Less Traveled: Parmenides](#)" (Podcast)
- Quiz 5 due by 3:00 P.M.

Sunday, February 10

- First paper due by 5:00 P.M.

Monday, February 11

Class 11

- Plato, [Meno](#), 87d-100c
- Adamson, "[We Don't Need No Education: Plato's Meno](#)" (Podcast)
- Quiz 6 due by noon.

Wednesday, February 13

Class 12

- Review readings from Class 11

Friday, February 15

Class 13

- Plato, [Phaedo](#), 57a-84b
- Quiz 7 due by noon

Wednesday, February 20

Class 14

- Plato, [Cratylus](#), 439a-440a

- Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, I.6 987a30-b14
- Plato, *Republic*, V, 475c-480a

Friday, February 22

Class 15

- Plato, *Phaedo*, 84c-118a
- Salmieri, *Budget Tour*, F
- Adamson, “[Mind Over Mixture: Anaxagoras](#)” (Podcast)
- Adamson, “[Famous Last Words: Plato’s Phaedo](#)” (Podcast)
- Salmieri, “[The Phaedo’s Proof that the Soul is Indestructible](#)” (PowerPoint)
- [Quiz 8](#) due by 3:00pm.

Monday, February 25

Class 16

- Reeve, summaries of *Republic* I-III
- Plato, *Republic* II 357a-376c
- Plato, *Republic* III, 412b-417b
- Plato, *Republic* IV, 419a-427c

Wednesday, February 27

Class 17

- Reeve, summaries of *Republic* IV-X
- Plato, *Republic* IV, 427d-445e
- Plato, *Republic* IX, 580d-592b
- Plato, *Phaedrus*, 246a-249d
- Quiz 9 due by noon.

Friday, March 01

Class 18

- Adamson, “[Soul and City: Plato’s Political Philosophy](#)” (Podcast)
- Plato, *Republic* VI
- Review materials from class 17.

Saturday, March 02

- Test 1 due by 11:59 P.M.

Monday, March 04

Class 19

- Salmieri, “[The Divided Line and Cave](#)” (Video)
- Plato, *Republic* VI 504e-511e
- Plato, *Republic* VII 511e-521b
- Plato (as narrated by Orson Wells), “[The Allegory of the Cave](#)” (Animation)

- Adamson, “[Ain't No Sunshine: The Cave Allegory of Plato's Republic](#)” (Podcast)

Wednesday, March 06

Class 20

- Plato, *Republic* VII 521c-541b

Friday, March 08

Class 21

- Aristotle, [Metaphysics I.1](#)
- Adamson, “[Mr. Know It All: Aristotle's Life And Works](#)” (Podcast)
- Quiz 10 due by noon.

Monday, March 18

Class 22

- “[Aristotle's Life and Corpus: Assertion](#)” (PowerPoint video)
- Aristotle, *Topics* I.5
- Shields, “Aristotle” (in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*), [sections 1 and 2](#).
- Quiz 11 due by noon.

Wednesday, March 20

Class 23

- “[Deduction](#)” (PowerPoint video)
- [Prior Analytics](#) I.1, 4.
- Smith, “Aristotle's Logic” (in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*), [sections 1-5](#)
- Quiz 12 due by noon.

Friday, March 22

Class 24

- Aristotle, *Topics* I.1
- Aristotle, *Posterior Analytics* I.2-4
- Smith, “Aristotle's Logic” (in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*), [section 6](#)

Sunday, March 24

- Second paper due by 11:59 P.M.

Monday, March 25

Class 25

- Quiz 13 due by noon.
- Aristotle, *Posterior Analytics* II.19

Wednesday, March 27

Class 26

- Aristotle, [Posterior Analytics](#) II.1-2, 8-10
- Smith, “Aristotle's Logic” (in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*), [section 7-8](#)
- Adamson and Benson, “[Hugh Benson on Aristotelian Method](#)” (Podcast)

Friday, March 29

Class 27

- “[Substance](#)” (PowerPoint video)
- Aristotle, *Categories* 1-5
- Adamson, “[Down to Earth: Aristotle on Substance](#)” (Podcast)
- Adamson, “[Second Thoughts: Plato's Parmenides and the Forms](#)” (Podcast)
- Quiz 14 due by noon.

Monday, April 01

Class 28

- [Aristotle's Lagoon](#) (Documentary)
- Aristotle, *Parts of Animals* I.1, 5.

Tuesday, April 02

- Second test due by 11:59 P.M.

Wednesday, April 03

Class 29

- Aristotle, *Physics* I.7
- Aristotle, *Generation and Corruption* I.4

Friday, April 05

Class 30

- [Quiz 15](#) due by noon.
- Aristotle, *Metaphysics* VII.1-3, 13, 17; VIII.1-3

Monday, April 8

Class 31

- Aristotle, *Physics* II.1, 3
- Adamson, “[Form and Function: Aristotle's Four Causes](#)” (Podcast)

Wednesday, April 10

Class 32

- Adamson, “[Let's Get Physical: Aristotle's Natural Philosophy](#)” (Podcast)
- [Quiz 16 due by noon.](#)

Friday, April 12

Class 33

- Aristotle, *Physics* II.8-9
- Salmieri, [Budget Tour](#), G
- Adamson, “[All You Need Is Love, and Five Other Things: Empedocles](#)” (Podcast)

Monday, April 15

- [Third Paper](#) due by 11:59 P.M.

Wednesday, April 17

Class 34

- Adamson, “[Soul Power: Aristotle's De Anima](#)” (Podcast)

- Aristotle, *De Anima* II.1-3
- Quiz 17 due by noon.

Thursday, April 18

Class 35

- Adamson, “[God Only Knows: Aristotle on Mind and God](#)” (Podcast)
- Review readings from Class 34

Friday, April 19

Class 36: CANCELLED DUE TO TERRORISTS

Sunday, April 21

- Test 3 due by 11:59 P. M.

Monday, April 22

Class 37

- Aristotle, [Nicomachean Ethics](#), I.1-5, 7, 13
- Plato, *Philebus* 11b-d, 20c-22b
- Quiz 18 due by noon.

Wednesday, April 24

Class 38

- Aristotle, [Nicomachean Ethics](#), II
- Aristotle, [Nicomachean Ethics](#), IV.3, 5
- Adamson, “[The Goldilocks Theory: Aristotle’s Ethics](#)” (Podcast)
- Quiz 19 due by noon.

Tuesday, April 26

Class 39

- Aristotle, [Nicomachean Ethics](#), VI.1-2, 4-5, 8, 12
- Aristotle, [Nicomachean Ethics](#), VII.1-3

Monday, April 29

Class 40

- Aristotle, [Nicomachean Ethics](#), X.6-8

Thursday, April 30

- Test 4 due by 11:59 P.M.

Wednesday, May 01

Class 41

- Review reading from Class 40.

Friday, May 3

- Paper 4 due by 11:59 P.M.