History of Ancient Philosophy

Philosophy 127 • Spring 2016

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Required Materials

• Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy, Author: Cohen, Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company
• Hellenistic Philosophy, Author: Inwood, Publisher: Hackett Publishing Company
• Turning Technologies QT Clicker Device; the older NXT model is compatible

Catalog Description: History of Ancient Philosophy. Examination of the origins of Western philosophy, with emphasis on the works of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. Prerequisite: 3 units in Philosophy. Graded: Graded Student. Units: 3.0

Course Objectives

• The course is designed to give a systematic introduction to the early beginnings of western philosophy.
• The course will focus on the relevance of ancient philosophy to contemporary philosophical concerns.
• Students will be required to read primary sources in translation.
• Students will be expected to understand the philosophical problems the ancient authors are addressing and the solutions provided.

Students will be expected to:

• Demonstrate a developed ability to read and understand historical philosophical texts.
• Demonstrate a precise and detailed understanding of the views and arguments of the philosophers studied.
• Evaluate critically the concepts and arguments contained in the texts;
• Maintain and defend with reasons their own critical views on the philosophers.

Students will demonstrate their achievement of the course objectives and expectations through:

• Daily in-class quizzes
• A final examination incorporating multiple choice and essay questions
• Participation in in-class discussion;
• Composition of short papers
COURSE GRADE
The following cutoff scheme represents a guarantee of the maximum course total required for each letter grade. Target scores for the individual assignments are also provided.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Clickers</th>
<th>Papers (x4)</th>
<th>Final</th>
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<td>300</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>180</td>
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The instructor will be following the Philosophy Department’s grading standards.

Description of Requirements

**Papers:** Students are asked to write four 1000 word essays (about 3 ½ pages each) in response to specific prompts given by the instructor. *These are not research papers*; please make use only of the assigned course material. The emphasis of these will be on the critical examination of complex philosophical argumentation. Comments will be given on all writing assignments to help students improve their skills in both analytic reasoning and composition on subsequent assignments. For an explanation of what is involved in philosophical writing, please see the Philosophy Department’s writing guidelines.

Essays will be checked for originality by Turnitin.com. They may be submitted up to 24 hours late with no penalty, and will be accepted for another 24 hours after that for a 10% penalty (10 points). After 48 hours, essays will be accepted, for a limited amount of time, for half credit. Late essays may receive minimal comments. Essays are read in the order received. There will be no make-up essays.

It is your responsibility to insure that all of your essays are properly submitted. It is a requirement of this course that you check to be sure you have received credit for each essay before the next one is due. Negligence in this regard can mean failing the course even though you have done all of the work. You cannot get credit for your essays if you do not succeed in turning them in.

**In-Class Quizzes:** Students should expect a quiz to be given each day in class, beginning with the second class meeting. Quiz questions will normally be interspersed with the lecture and responses will be given via clicker. Some questions may cover a reading assignment and some may be review of a previous lecture; others may deal with online instruction material. Some questions may be aimed at polling the class regarding their philosophical views; for these, all answers will be scored as correct.
It is your responsibility to insure that you have a working clicker—your own—with you in class. There will be no makeups for quizzes missed either as a result of absence or a missing or malfunctioning clicker. In order to accommodate such problems, I will add a bonus equal to 15% of the total possible clicker points. This bonus will not allow your clicker score to exceed the maximum possible number of correct in-class clicks—i.e. it will not give you extra credit.

I will convert clicker points to course points using a conversion factor, which will be 300 / the total possible clicker points. Your course points will then be calculated by multiplying your clicker total by this conversion factor. For example: Suppose there are 500 possible clicker points. The conversion factor would be 300/500, or 0.6. That means each clicker point is worth 0.6 course points. Suppose Sally has 450 points (including her bonus). Sally will receive 270 points as her clicker score (450 x 0.6).

It is a requirement of this course that you register your clicker at our SacCT page by the end of the first week of classes. If you have not registered your clicker by the end of the second week, you will lose credit for any quizzes you have taken during the first two weeks, and you will not receive credit for any quizzes after that until your clicker is registered.

It is your responsibility to regularly check your clicker scores online to insure that your clicker has been properly registered and you are getting the appropriate credit for your clicker quizzes. Please notify me right away of any problem you encounter in registering your clicker. Failure to do so may result in your not getting credit for any affected clicker quizzes.

**Final Exam:** The exam will consist of three essay questions. Recommended length of response is 3 pages for each question. Essay topics will be drawn from a list handed out in advance; at least one question will be mandatory, and chosen at random. You will be allowed to use four pages of notes; the required format for these will be described in a separate handout.

**Disability Accommodation:** If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services to Students with Disabilities, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

**Extra Credit/Participation:** Class participation is encouraged and can earn you extra credit. You may participate by asking or answering questions in class, or by coming to office hours. Students who participate regularly (e.g. during more than half of the class periods) will receive 15-20 points and those who contribute occasionally may expect 5-15. Normally there will be a 20 point maximum for this extra credit, but this limit may be extended in recognition of outstanding effort or exceptional mastery of the course material. You may also be offered extra credit of up to 15 points for participating in instructor evaluations. No other form of extra credit will be available.

**Missed Exams:** If you are going to miss an exam, please contact me soon as possible. Unless there are verifiable extenuating circumstances (usually medical), you must make up your exam within one week of the exam date. There will be a penalty equal to 20% of the points possible on the exam unless you are able to document seri-
ous and compelling reasons for missing it. There are no exceptions to the requirement for documentation— not even for funerals.

Withdrawal from the course: Please be mindful of drop deadlines. After the end of the second week of classes, you will be asked to justify any request to withdraw, and if your explanation is not satisfactory your petition to drop will be denied. (The criteria are on the back of this form.) In the large majority of cases, if a student does not withdraw during the first two weeks, she is committed to finishing the class.

Communication: Please check your Saclink email at least once each week. Please also check weekly for announcements on our SacCT page; it's wise to check on Sundays to see if there are any announcements relevant to our work during the coming week.

Laptop Use: Laptops, tablets, and smart phones may not be used during lecture. Exceptions will be made only under special circumstances, e.g. to accommodate disability. If you are found to be using one of these devices during class, you will be asked to put it away; repeat offenses will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per incident.

Proper Comportment: University students are expected to know that it is not appropriate to interact privately with their classmates during lecture. Repeat offenders will be penalized at a rate of 10 points per incident.

Academic Dishonesty: This usually involves using unauthorized notes during an exam or plagiarism, which is presenting the work of someone else— whether copied or paraphrased— as one's own. When material is copied without use of quotation marks, plagiarism is presumed. Please understand that it is not enough simply to reword material you find online to avoid the charge of plagiarism. You are responsible for what you turn in; check to be sure all appropriate citations are included in your work. If unauthorized notes are found to be accessible to you during an exam, you will be presumed to be using them. Those who permit others to cheat are considered accomplices and are guilty of cheating.

You must not use, or even handle, anyone else’s clicker after the start of lecture. This will be considered cheating.

Please review the University's policies regarding academic dishonesty. The library also maintains a very useful page on plagiarism.

Anyone caught cheating will lose credit for the assignment on which they cheated, with no possibility of make-up. The minimum penalty will be 150 points, which is likely to drop the offender 1-2 letter grades in the course. If your clicker is used while you are not in attendance, the penalty will be 150 points against you as well as the person who uses your clicker on your behalf. Egregious cases (e.g. multiple infractions, failure to cooperate with an investigation into academic dishonesty) may result in a student's failing the course. Please be aware that I am required to report all cases of cheating to the University’s Office of Student Conduct, which may take further action.