

PHILOSOPHY 20

Ancient Philosophy

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CSUS
Fall 2007
M W F 9:00 – 9:50, Alpine 138
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. by Appointment

Description

In this course we will examine the origin of Western philosophy by carefully surveying ancient Hellenic theories of knowledge and existence. Our survey will begin with the Milesian School, continue through the pre-Socratic philosophers and Plato, and conclude with the philosophy of Aristotle.

Requirements

Our work will primarily be lecture and discussion, so both careful attention to the readings and class participation will be crucial for a lively course. Please bring your text to class.

There will be two examinations--one take-home mid-term paper and one in-class final--as well as several homework assignments and unannounced short answer quizzes on the readings. All written work must comply with Philosophy Department guidelines, which can be found here: www.csus.edu/phil/req/writing.htm. The departmental grading policy for written work can be found here: www.csus.edu/phil/req/grading.htm.

Text

Cohen, Curd, and Reeve: Readings In Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales To Aristotle (3rd Edition) Hackett, 2005. ISBN 0872207692

Grading

Class participation:	15%	(2 unexcused absences results in 0%)
HW & Quizzes:	25%	(These are written pop quizzes on the reading assignments)
Mid-term exam:	25%	(4-6 page take-home exam/paper)
Final exam:	35%	(In-class final exam)

Lecture Schedule

Week 1	9/5 - 9/7	Introduction: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes
Week 2	9/10 - 9/14	Heraclitus
Week 3	9/17 - 9/21	Parmenides, Zeno
Week 4	9/24 - 9/28	Empedocles, Anaxagoras
Week 5	10/1 - 10/5	The Atomists: Leucippus, Democritus
Week 6	10/8 - 10/12	Socrates and Plato: Platonic Epistemology, <i>Theaetetus</i>
Week 7	10/15 - 10/19	Platonic Epistemology, continued: <i>Republic</i> Bk. 6, 7

Week 8	10/22 - 10/26	<i>Euthyphro, Meno, Phaedo</i>
Week 9	10/29 - 11/2	<i>Parmenides</i> - MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED 10/29
Week 10	11/5 - 11/9	Platonic Cosmology: <i>Timaeus</i> - MIDTERM COLLECTED 11/5
Week 11	11/12	Monday: <i>Timaeus</i> , continued: Wrap-up of Plato Wed & Fri: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Week 12	11/26 - 11/30	Aristotle's Categories: The Bridge between Logic and Being, between Epistemology and Ontology
Week 13	12/3 - 12/7	Aristotle's Physics - The Study of Natural Beings in Motion
Week 14	12/10 - 12/14	Aristotle's Metaphysics - The Study of Being in General
Week 15	12/17 - 12/21	Finals Week (Exam date TBA)

Reading Schedule

All page numbers refer to *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy, 3rd Edition* unless otherwise indicated

Week 1	9/5 - 9/7	The Milesians, 8-14
Week 2	9/10 - 9/14	Heraclitus, 24-34
Week 3	9/17 - 9/21	<i>Parmenides</i> , 35-41; Zeno, 59-63
Week 4	9/24 - 9/28	Empedocles, 47-58; Anaxagoras, 42-47
Week 5	10/1 - 10/5	The Atomists: Leucippus, Democritus, 64-71
Week 6	10/8 - 10/12	Plato, <i>Theaetetus</i> (download)
Week 7	10/15 - 10/19	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Bk. 6 & 7, 477-528
Week 8	10/22 - 10/26	<i>Euthyphro, Meno, Phaedo</i> ; 97-114, 203-281
Week 9	10/29 - 11/2	<i>Parmenides</i> , 604-613
Week 10	11/5 - 11/9	<i>Timaeus</i> , 614-644
Week 11	11/12	Monday: <i>Timaeus</i> , continued: Wrap-up of Plato Wed & Fri: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
Week 12	11/26 - 11/30	Aristotle's Categories: 656-662
Week 13	12/3 - 12/7	Aristotle's Physics: 694-719; On Generation and Corruption, 727-735
Week 14	12/10 - 12/14	Aristotle's Metaphysics - 758-800
Week 15	12/17 - 12/21	Finals Week (Exam date TBA)