

**PHIL 127: History of Ancient Philosophy**  
**Section 01: TR 12:00-1:15**  
**Douglass Hall 208**

**Instructor:** Prof. Thomas F. Pyne  
**Office Hours:** TR 10:30-11:30  
Other times by appointment.  
**Office Location:** Mendocino 3022  
**Email:** [pynetf@csus.edu](mailto:pynetf@csus.edu)  
**Required Text:** Cohen, Curd & Reeve, *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Hackett (Indianapolis, 2011)

**Canvas:** <https://canvas.csus.edu/>  
or via My SacState <https://my.csus.edu/>

**Faculty Website:** <https://www.csus.edu/faculty/p/pynetf/>

### Course Description

Examination of the origins of Western philosophy, with emphasis on the works of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle. **Prerequisite:** 3 units in philosophy **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:

- Exams incorporating essay questions.
- Participation in in-class and online discussion;
- Composition of analytical journal entries.

## **Course Delivery**

While PHIL 127 will be in most ways a standard lecture/discussion class, it will be ‘web-assisted.’ That is, we will be using some features of the Canvas course management system.

Canvas is a program designed for on-line college courses. Among other things, it serves as a location for course material, lecture notes, tests, papers, and discussions.

I will make important course content available, including lecture notes and other supplementary material.

You will be taking reading quizzes and submitting written work through Canvas. In addition, you may communicate with me, as well as with other students in the class

## **Access the Course**

You can use My SacState to log into the course by clicking on the ‘Canvas’ icon; or you can access Canvas directly at <https://csus.instructure.com>.

To get started using Canvas, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com>).

## **Communications**

The course will use the communication tools built into Canvas:

- Announcements: It’s a good idea to check for announcements from time to time during the semester
- Mail: You may send me (or a classmate) a message via the ‘Conversations’ function (found at ‘Inbox’ on the left). I will try to respond promptly.
- Calendar: Exams and due dates for journal entries will all appear in the Calendar.

## **Work for the Course**

1. Reading Quizzes (1 pt each; 20 pts total)
2. Exams (Exams 1 and 2, 10 pts each; Final Exam, 15 pts; 35 pts total) A combination of objective and essay questions. The questions will be on the readings, lectures, and discussions up to a designated point.
3. Journal (5 pts each; 50 pts total) Brief analytical and critical pieces on assigned questions, with room for your own thoughts. I’m expecting about 450-600 words for each.

## ***Assignment Submission Instructions***

### ***Journal Entries***

Journal entries will be submitted in Canvas.

- Enter Canvas
- On the Dashboard click on PHIL 127;
- Scroll down to ‘Journal Entries’;
- Open the correct journal; you will see the text of the assignment itself, as well as the due date and time, and the rubric.
- Read the instructions *carefully* (you will be graded on the completeness with which you answer everything being asked);
- Compose the journal entry using your own word processing application. (You can use .doc, .docx, for example. Nothing *too* exotic. And don’t give me a .pdf.) Don’t compose the journal entry in Canvas, even though it supports rich text.
- Click the dark rectangle ‘Submit Assignment. That opens a box at the bottom of the page which gives you three choices: ‘File Upload,’ ‘Text Entry,’ or ‘Office 365.’ Ignore ‘Office 365.’ You may either upload the file using ‘Choose File’ or using ‘Text Entry’ copy and paste your entry. (Or, on the Belt-*and*-Suspenders Principle, you can do both.)
- Once you are satisfied with how your entry looks in that box, click ‘Submit’ (Important!);
- A success message should appear: “√Submitted!” with the date and time. If it doesn’t, try again.
- Late journal entries will be penalized .5 point for every day late.

I’m expecting 450-600 words for each entry.

**Reading Quizzes:** There will be a reading quiz on almost every assignment. A reading quiz will consist of five to ten multiple-choice questions designed so that a careful reader should be able to answer them. The quiz will ‘open’ a week before it is due; it will ‘close’ at the beginning of the first class period in which the reading will be discussed.

To take a reading quiz:

- Enter Canvas
- Open PHIL 127.
- Scroll down to ‘Reading Quizzes and Exams’ to open the particular quiz.
- Answer the questions (make sure you ‘submit’ each question as well as the entire exam).
- Then click ‘Submit.’ You will get your score immediately.

You will have only one chance to take the quiz, so check your answers before submitting.

**Exams:** Exams will be taken like the reading quizzes. The main difference will be that they will include essay questions.

To take an exam, follow the instructions for taking a reading quiz. The difference between an exam and a quiz will be the time constraints. You will have 75 minutes to take Exams 1 and 2, two hours (120 minutes) to take the final. In addition, there will be some essay questions in the exams.

Compose your answers within the answer box. Do not copy and paste your answer from elsewhere.

### ***Grading***

**Exams:** Each exam will be graded **10 - 0**. Final **15 – 0**.

**Reading Quizzes:** Reading quizzes will receive a grade of **1** (full credit), **.5** (inadequate comprehension), or **0** (not taken).

**Journals:** Journal entries will be graded **5 – 0**.

**Final Grade:** The final grade for the course will be determined by the sum of the reading quizzes, journals, and exams.

### ***Grading Criteria***

<b>Scaled Score</b>	<b>Letter Equivalent</b>
100-94	A
93-92	A-
91-90	B+
89-84	B
83-82	B-
81-80	C+
79-74	C
73-72	C-
71-70	D+
69-64	D
63-62	D-
61-	F

### ***Viewing Grades in SacCT***

For reading quizzes you will be able to see your score as soon as you have submitted your quiz. For in-class tests and journal entries I will post the grades as soon as I have finished grading them. You can see your grades during the semester by going to ‘Grades’ in Canvas

## Course Policies

### Attendance

I expect attendance at every class meeting. If for some excellent reason you cannot make class, let me know – preferably in advance. If this is impossible, let me know by 5:00 on the day you miss, preferably by an e-mail message within SacCT. I will lower you a grade increment for every absence in which you fail to contact me the same day.

Class meetings will begin at 12:00 noon with roll. Be on time. No excuses. Anticipate. I will treat a pattern of late arrival as an unexcused absence.

I expect attention to the material during class periods. If there is a class discussion, I will serve as moderator. Please wait to be recognized before making a contribution.

If you wish to ask a question, answer a question, or make a contribution to the class, please ask to be recognized. There is no excuse for conducting a private discussion during class time. I will treat a pattern of talking in class as an unexcused absence.

### Make-Up Reading Quizzes and Exams

Since you may take exams and quizzes at your convenience, there will be consequences for missing the deadline – whatever the circumstances.

1 point off your exam score ( $n = 10$ ), .25 off your quiz grade ( $n = 1$ ), for every day late.

The opening and due dates and times will be listed in the Calendar. Quizzes and exams will remain open for two days after the due date.

If your internet connection is unreliable (or you suspect it may be unreliable) plan to take the exam in one of the labs on campus.

### Late Work

For journal entries, the grade will be lowered .5 for every day it's late.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are using a reliable internet connection. I will not accept connectivity problems as an excuse and will impose any relevant late penalty.

In order to avoid such problems: *Don't wait until the last minute.* I have purposely made the deadlines for essay submission 11:30 PM because reliability problems tend to arise near midnight. But you should, if at all possible, to submit before then.

### Electronic Thingummies

Put your laptop under your seat during class. Set your phone on vibrate and put it away.

Since you will be getting my class notes, you will not need to take elaborate notes yourself. However, bring a pencil and paper.

Unless you need something electronic to keep you alive, don't use it in class.

## University Policies

### ***Academic Honesty***

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Honesty, Policy & Procedures: <https://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/stu-0100.htm>

The University Library has a helpful treatment of plagiarism at <http://csus.libguides.com/plagiarism>.

Cheating on an assignment will be treated as a missed assignment. I reserve the right, after following the academic dishonesty procedures, to report it to the Student Conduct Officer.

However, consider this: Originality is an over-rated virtue in undergraduate writing, ranking well below unity, clarity, and cogency of argument. You can borrow other people's ideas and arguments all you like. You just need to *cite* them when you do. Use any method of citation you find comfortable and convenient. (I like MLA myself.) Don't borrow their *words*: you mustn't submit an essay consisting of a bunch of quotations.

Since you can borrow ideas, you have *no excuse* for plagiarism except laziness.

### ***Reasonable Accommodation Policy***

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD). For more information please visit the [SSWD website](http://www.csus.edu/sswd/) (<http://www.csus.edu/sswd/>). They are located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at [sswd@csus.edu](mailto:sswd@csus.edu).

Please discuss your accommodation needs with me within the first week. Don't wait until the first exam or paper and expect to be accommodated. It is difficult and time-consuming to make certain accommodations in Canvas. If you wait until the first quiz or paper is due to announce your disability it may simply not be *humanly* possible to make the accommodation. You will then just have to do the best you can.

A tendency to procrastinate is not a recognized disability.

## University Resources

### *The CSUS Writing Center*

The Writing Center provides encouraging, focused, and non-judgmental one-to-one tutorials in writing. Their tutors can help with writing at all points in the process, from initial planning and organizing through developing and revising an assignment. You can bring the assignment to them for help.

### ***Sac State Library***

The Sac State Library's webpage is <http://library.csus.edu>.

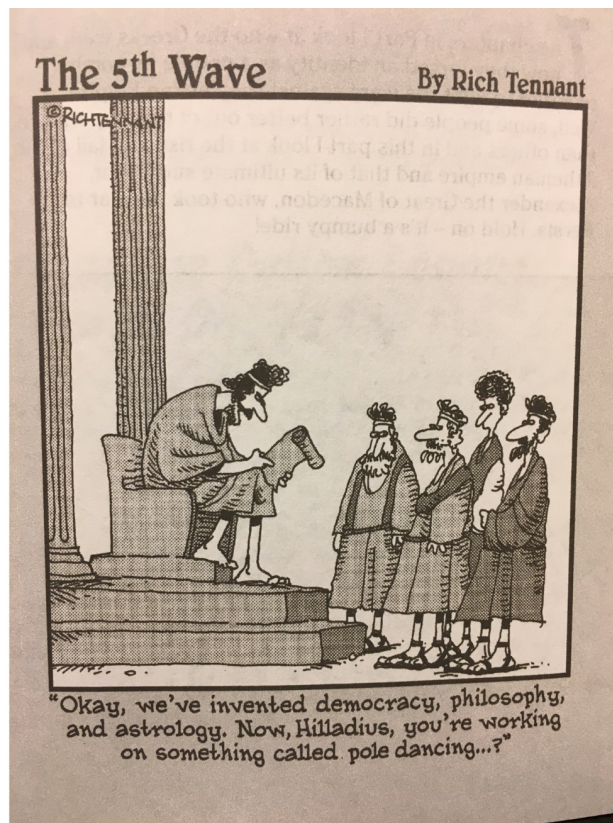
To find a book or periodical, use 'OneSearch' located at the top of the page. click on "Eureka: Library Catalogue" under "Resources and Collections or go directly to <http://eureka.lib.csus.edu/>. Or you can access 'OneSearch' through your MySacState portal.

For a largely undergraduate institution, the Sac State library's holdings and resources in philosophy are pretty good.

### ***Student Computing Labs***

To access SacCT from campus, or use any of the other campus online resources, you can use the IRT managed student computer labs on campus. See [University Labs website](http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm) , that is, <http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm> for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

Πάντων χρημάτων μέτρων άνθρωπος  
(A person is the measure of all things.)  
- Protagoras



**Course Schedule**

(Numbers in brackets refer to pages in the textbook.)

<p><b>Introduction: The Ancient World</b>                  What <i>are</i> they – violent, savage, lawless?                  or friendly to strangers, god-fearing men?                  - Homer, <i>Odyssey</i></p>			
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
<p><b>Week 1</b>  <b>T 1/21</b></p>	<p>T: Introduction: The Eastern Mediterranean in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.;                  Homer and the Early Hellenic Conception of the World</p>	<p>T: [1-6]</p>	<p>T:</p>
<p><b>Part I. The Earliest Philosophers</b>                  All things are full of gods.                  - Thales</p>			
<p><b>R 1/23</b></p>	<p>W: The Milesian <i>Physiologoi</i>                  – Thales                  – Anaximander                  – Anaximenes</p>	<p>R: [6 -11]</p>	<p>R: Reading Quiz 1:                  The Milesians, 10-17</p>
<p><b>Week 2</b>  <b>T 1/28</b></p>	<p>T: Pythagoras and His School</p>	<p>T: [12-15]</p>	<p>T: Reading Quiz 2:                  The Pythagoreans,  <b>Journal Entry 1:</b>  <b><i>Mythos and Logos</i> due 11:30 PM</b></p>
<p><b>R 1/30</b></p>	<p>R: The Beginnings of Metaphysics: Xenophanes</p>	<p>R: [15-19]</p>	<p>R: Reading Quiz 3:                  Xenophanes, 15-18</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b>  <b>T 2/4</b></p>	<p>T: The Beginnings of Metaphysics: Heraclitus</p>	<p>T: [19-25]</p>	<p>T: Reading Quiz 4:                  Heraclitus, 18-25  <b>Journal Entry 2:</b>  <b>Milesians and Pythagoreans due 11:30 PM</b></p>



<p><b>Part II: Eleatics and Elementalism</b></p> <p><b>Strepsiades</b> And what are their arses looking at in the heavens?</p> <p><b>Disciple</b> They are studying astronomy on their own account. - Aristophanes, <i>The Clouds</i></p>			
<b>R 2/6</b>	R: The Eleatics: - Parmenides	R: [26-30]	R: Reading Quiz 5: Parmenides, 26-30
<b>Week 4 T 2/11</b>	T: The Eleatics - Zeno	T: [31-33]	T: Reading Quiz 6: Zeno, 31-33
<b>R 2/13</b>	R: Elementalism - Anaxagoras - Empedocles	R: Empedocles [33-46] Anaxagoras [46-50]	R: Reading Quiz 7: Empedocles and Anaxagoras, 33-50
<b>Week 5 T 2/18</b>	T: Atomism - Leucippus - Democritus	T: Leucippus and Democritus [51-59]	T: Reading Quiz 8: Leucippus and Democritus, 51-59
<p><b>Part III: The 'Sophist' Movement</b></p> <p><b>Socrates</b> ...(W)e should send him to those who undertake to be teachers of virtue, declare themselves to be available to any Greek who wants to learn, and charge a set fee for it?</p> <p><b>Anytus</b> And who do you say these people are, Socrates?</p> <p><b>Socrates</b> You surely know as well as I do that they are the ones called Sophists.</p> <p><b>Anytus</b> By the name of Heracles, be quiet, Socrates! May no one belonging to me, whether family members or friends, citizens or foreigners, be seized by such madness as to go to those people and be ruined. For they plainly pervert and corrupt those who associate with them. - Plato, <i>Meno</i></p> <p>A writer who says that there are no truths, or that all truth is 'merely relative,' is asking you not to believe him. So don't. - Roger Scruton, <i>Modern Philosophy</i></p>			
<b>R 2/20</b>	R: The Sophists: Protagoras	R: Protagoras [63-65]	R: Reading Quiz 9: The Sophists, 63-69 <b>Journal Entry 3: Parmenides and Eleaticism due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 6 T 2/25</b>	T: The Sophists: Gorgias	T: Gorgias [66-69]	T:

<p><b>Part IV: The Life and Career of Socrates</b>          And so, when I read such things of such men, I can hardly help exclaiming, '<i>St Socrates, pray for us!</i>'          - Erasmus</p>			
<b>R 2/27</b>	R: Socrates' 'Mission'	R: [Lecture]	<b>R: Journal Entry 4: Post-Parmenidean Elementalism due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 7 T 3/3</b>	T: <i>Euthyphro</i> : An Example of Socrates' Method	T: <i>Euthyphro</i> [80-90]	T: Reading Quiz 10: <i>Euthyphro</i> , 80-90 <b>Exam 1 window opens 1:15 PM</b>
<p><b>Part V: Plato: Ethics</b>          The Love that moves the sun and other stars.          - Dante, <i>Paradiso</i></p>			
<b>R 3/5</b>	R: Plato <i>Meno</i> - Extending the Craft Analogy	R: <i>Meno</i> [144-167]	R: Reading Quiz 11: <i>Meno</i> (whole dialogue), 144-167
<b>Week 8 T 3/10</b>	T: The Paradox of Inquiry The Solution: <i>Anamnesis</i> The Method of Hypothesis	T: Proof of <i>Anamnesis</i> [151-56] Hypothesis [156-167]	<b>T: Exam 1 due 12:00 Noon</b>
<b>R 3/12</b>	R: Plato <i>Republic</i> - Is the Just Man the Happy Man? - Or Is 'Justice' Merely a Mask for Arbitrary Will and Power?	R: <i>Republic</i> , Bk I [234-253]	R: Reading Quiz 12: <i>Republic</i> Bks I-III
<b>Week 9 T 3/17</b>	T: Plato <i>Republic</i> - The Ring of Gyges and the Problem of Justice - The Ideal City	T: <i>Republic</i> , Bk II, [254-271] <i>Republic</i> , Bk III, [especially 289-292]	<b>T: Journal Entry 5: The Mission of Socrates</b>
<b>R 3/19</b>	R: Plato <i>Republic</i> - Justice, Psychic and Political - A Definition Discovered	R: [ <i>Republic</i> , Bk IV, [292-311]; <i>Republic</i> , Bk V, [311-333]	R: Reading Quiz 13: <i>Republic</i> , Bks IV-V, 292-333

<p><b>Part VI: Plato: Metaphysics</b>                  In the beginning was the <i>deed</i>.                  – Goethe, <i>Faust</i>, Pt. I.</p>			
<p><b>Week 10</b>  <b>T 3/24</b></p>	<p>T: Plato <i>Phaedo</i>                  – Mind and Body                  – Physicalism and the 'Simple <i>Aitia</i>'</p>	<p>T: [<i>Phaedo</i> 166-201]</p>	<p>T: Reading Quiz 14:  <i>Phaedo</i></p>
<p><b>R 3/26</b></p>	<p>R: Plato <i>Phaedo</i>                  – The soul and the Forms</p>	<p>R:</p>	<p>R:</p>
<p><b>Week 11</b>  <b>T 3/31</b></p>	<p>T: <b>Spring Recess</b></p>	<p>T:</p>	<p>T:</p>
<p><b>R 4/2</b></p>	<p>R: <b>Spring Recess</b></p>	<p>R:</p>	<p>R:</p>
<p><b>Week 12</b>  <b>T 4/7</b></p>	<p>T: Plato: Metaphysics                  The Theory of Forms</p>	<p>T: [Lecture]</p>	<p>T: <b>Journal Entry 6: The Ring of Gyges due 11:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>Exam 2 Window opens 1:15 PM</b></p>
<p><b>R 4/9</b></p>	<p>R: Plato <i>Republic</i>                  – The Sun and the Good                  – the 'Divided Line'</p>	<p>R: <i>Republic</i>, Bk VI [333-351]                  Bk VII, [352-368]</p>	<p>R: Reading Quiz 15:  <i>Republic</i> Bks. VI-VII, 333-368</p>
<p><b>Week 13</b>  <b>T 4/14</b></p>	<p>T: Conclusion of <i>Republic</i>                  – Types of States and Types of Souls                  – Glaucon's Challenge                  Met</p>	<p>T: <i>Republic</i>, Bk VIII [369-386]  <i>Republic</i>, Bk IX [386-401]</p>	<p>T: <b>Exam 2 due 12:00 Noon</b></p>
<p><b>Part VII: Aristotle: Logic and Metaphysics</b>                  "Indeed, the old question – always pursued from long ago till now, and always raising puzzles – 'What is being?' is just the question 'What is substance?'"                  Aristotle (1028b3-5)</p>			
<p><b>R 4/16</b></p>	<p>R: Aristotle: Logic and Explanation                  – Ontological 'Categories'                  – An Account of change                  – The Four Causes</p>	<p>R: <i>Categories</i> [452-456]  <i>Physics</i>, Bk I [475-481]  <i>Physics</i>, Bk II [481-491]</p>	<p>R: Reading Quiz 16: <i>Categories</i>, and <i>Physics</i>, 452-456</p> <p><b>Journal Entry 7: Plato's Philosophy of</b></p>

			<b>Mind due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 14</b> <b>T 4/21</b>	<b>T: Nammour Symposium</b> (No Class Meeting)	T:	T:
<b>R 4/23</b>	R: Aristotle: Metaphysics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Substance</li> <li>- Matter and Form</li> <li>- Essence</li> </ul>	R: <i>Metaphysics</i> , Bk I, 536-546] <i>Metaphysics</i> , Bk VII, Ch 1 [551-552] Ch 2 [552-553] Ch 3 [553] Ch 17 [565-567]	R: Reading Quiz 17: Metaphysics, Bk I, Bk VII, Chs.1-3-17, 536-546, 551-567 <b>Journal Entry 8:</b> <b>Plato's</b> <b>Metaphysics due</b> <b>11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 15</b> <b>T 4/28</b>	T: Aristotle: Metaphysics Potentiality and Actuality	T: <i>Metaphysics</i> , Bk VIII, Ch 1 [567] Ch 2 [567-568] Ch 3 [568-569]	T: Reading Quiz 18: Metaphysics, Bk VIII, Chs 1-3, 567- 569
<b>Part VIII: Aristotle: Philosophy of Mind</b>			
<p>To call these things causes is too absurd. If someone said that without bones and sinews and all such things, I should not be able to do what I decided, he would be right, but surely to say that they are the cause of what I do, and not that I have chosen the best course, even though I act with my mind, is to speak very lazily and carelessly. Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (99a)</p>			
<b>R 4/30</b>	R: Aristotle on the 'Soul' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Body and Mind</li> <li>- Perception</li> </ul>	R: <i>De Anima</i> , Bk I, Ch 1-4, [512-514] <i>De Anima</i> Bk III, Ch 3-5 [523-527]	R: Reading Quiz 19: <i>De Anima</i> , Bk I, Ch 1-4, Bk III Chs. 3- 5, 512-514, 523- 527
<b>Week 16</b> <b>T 5/5</b>	T: Aristotle: Philosophy of Mind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cognition</li> </ul>	T :	<b>T: Journal Entry</b> <b>9: Aristotle's</b> <b>Metaphysics</b> <b>Final Exam</b> <b>Window Opens</b> <b>1:15</b>
<b>R 5/7</b>	R: Aristotle: Philosophy of Mind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The 'Rational Soul'</li> <li>- The Active Intellect</li> </ul>	R: [ <i>De Anima</i> Bk III, Ch 6-10 [528- 529]	R: Reading Quiz 20: <i>De Anima</i> , Bk III, Ch. 6-10 (528-529)

<b>Finals Week</b> <b>T 5/12</b>	T:	T:	<b>T: Final Exam</b> <b>Due 2:45</b>
<b>R 5/14</b>	R:	R:	<b>R: Journal Entry</b> <b>10: Aristotle's</b> <b>Philosophy of</b> <b>Mind</b>

*The descriptions and due dates are subject to change for pedagogical reasons.*

**Study hard and do well in all your courses this semester!**