

**PHIL 127: History of Ancient Philosophy**  
**Section 01: MW 12:00-1:15**  
**Mendocino Hall 3009**

- Instructor:** Prof. Thomas F. Pyne
- Office Hours:** MW 10:30-11:30  
Other times by appointment.
- Office Location:** Mendocino 3016
- Phone:** (Office) 278-7288  
(Philosophy Department) 278-6424
- Email:** [pynetf@csus.edu](mailto:pynetf@csus.edu)  
Faculty Website: <http://www.csus.edu/indiv/p/pynetf/>
- Required Text:** Cohen, Curd & Reeve, *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., Hackett (Indianapolis, 2011)
- SacCT:** <http://www.csus.edu/sacct/>

### 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 SacCT 9.1 course management system.

SacCT 9.1 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 quizzes and exams, participating in discussions, and submitting written work through SacCT 9.1. In addition, you may communicate with me, as well as with other students in the class, through the SacCT Mail facility.

SacCT has an interesting new feature called ‘Smarthinking.’ Since I grade on writing, you might want to submit your journal entries to get some evaluation before submitting them to me. Be aware, though, that it can take twenty-four hours to get an evaluation, so plan accordingly.

## **Access the Course**

You will use your Saalink account to log into the course from the [SacCT Login page](#). (<http://www.csus.edu/sacct/>).

If you do not have a Saalink account yet, please refer to the [Get a Saalink Account](#) webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/saalink/settingUp.stm>) to create a saalink account online.

To get started using SacCT, visit the [Student Resources](#) webpage where you can access Online Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, and other help resources.

## **Communications**

The course will use the communication tools built into SacCT:

- 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 ‘Mail’ function. I will try to respond promptly.
- Discussions: You will be expected to participate in discussions, whether in class or through the ‘Discussions’ function in SacCT.
- Calendar: Exams and due dates for journal entries will all appear in the Calendar.

## **Technical Requirements**

To access a course in SacCT 9.1 you will need access to the Internet and an internet browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the Check Browser from your SacCT course. Refer to the [SacCT Browser Settings Guide](#) for instructions.

For help or to report a problem with SacCT you can:

- Visit the [Student SacCT FAQ's webpage](#)
- Submit a [SacCT Problem Form](#)
- Contact the University Help Desk at (916) 278-7337

## **Work for the Course**

1. Reading Quizzes (1 point each)
2. Three exams (10 pts each) 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) Brief analytical and critical pieces on assigned questions, with room for your own thoughts.
4. Discussion Contributions (4 pts)  
You will be expected to make regular contributions to discussion, either in the class period itself or in the online 'Discussion' conducted in SacCT.

## **Assignment Submission Instructions**

### **Journal Entries**

Journal entries will be submitted in SacCT.

- Open the main page for PHIL 127;
- On the course menu select 'Journal';
- Open the correct journal, read the instructions *carefully* (you will be graded on the completeness with which you answer everything being asked);
- Click 'Create Journal Entry';
- Give your journal entry a title (required);
- You can write your journal entry directly into the 'Entry Message' box, or you may compose your journal entry elsewhere and copy it into the box. Please don't attach your journal entry.
- Click on 'Post Entry' in the lower right-hand corner. The little green 'Success' banner should appear.
- Late journal entries will be penalized .5 point for every day late.

## ***Discussions***

- Philosophy involves discussion and argument. It's the best way to explore philosophical questions, the best way to learn how to philosophize. So I will expect you to participate in the discussions. You will either receive full credit for participation (10%) or no credit, depending on how seriously you take your responsibility to make contributions. If I notice that you are not participating, I will let you know that I expect more.
- To participate in an online discussion:
  - Enter SacCT;
  - Open 'Discussions' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin);
  - Click on one of the topics; you will be able to read the other contributions;
  - You can contribute to the discussion by clicking 'Create Message'.

## ***Online Quizzes***

**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 in SacCT:

Enter SacCT at <https://online.csus.edu>;

- Open the main page for PHIL 127;
- Open 'Assessments' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin of the main page);
- Answer the questions (make sure you 'submit' each question as well as the entire exam).

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

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

## ***Grading***

**Exams:** Each exam will receive numerical grades 'out of' 10. See the 'Grading Criteria' below.

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

**Discussion:** Discussion participation will be graded 4-0. Periodically, I will post progress reports on your participation in the Gradebook. These progress reports are indications of what you would get at the end of the semester if you continue your present course. That grade does not 'count'; it's just information.

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

### ***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 exams, and papers I will post the grades as soon as I have finished grading them. You can see your grades during the semester by going to 'MyGrades' in SacCT.

## **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 Exams and Quizzes**

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.

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.

## **University Policies**

### ***Academic Honesty***

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Honesty, Policy & Procedures. The policy on Academic Honesty and other information regarding student conduct can be accessed from the [University Policy Manual](http://www.csus.edu/umannual/index.htm) (<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/index.htm>).

The University Library has a helpful treatment of plagiarism at <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>.

The University has very helpful information on plagiarism at the [Library's Plagiarism Website](#).

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.

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 SacCT. 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 disposition 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, 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>

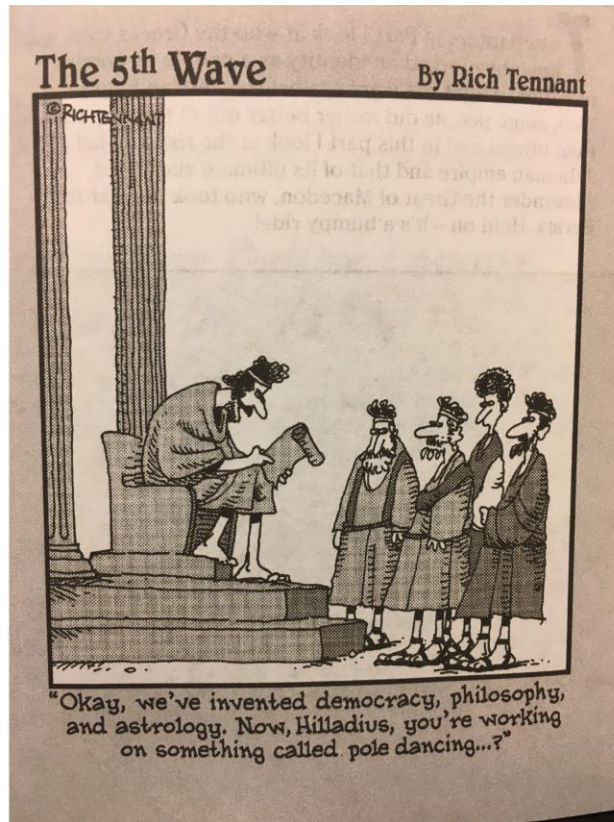
for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

### **SacCT**

SacCT is the course management system used on the Sac State campus for web-assisted courses. To access a course on SacCT, you must login from the [SacCT Login Page](https://online.csus.edu) (<https://online.csus.edu>).

To learn more about SacCT visit the [Student Resources](http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/) webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/>) where you can view online Tutorials, FAQ's and other help resources.

Πάντων χρημάτων μέτρων άνθρωπος  
- 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>			
Week	Topic	Readings	Due Dates
<p><b>Week 1</b>  <b>M 8/28</b></p>	<p>M: Introduction: The Eastern Mediterranean in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.;                  Homer and the Early Hellenic Conception of the World</p>	<p>M: [1-10]</p>	<p>M:</p>
<p><b>Part I. The Earliest Philosophers</b>                  All things are full of gods.                  - Thales</p>			
<p><b>W 8/30</b></p>	<p>W: The Milesian <i>Physiologoi</i>                  – Thales                  – Anaximander</p>	<p>W: [10 -17]</p>	<p>W: Reading Quiz on "The Milesians," 10-17</p>



	– Anaximenes		
<b>Week 2</b> <b>M 9/4</b>	M: <b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	M:	M:
<b>W 9/6</b>	W: Pythagoras and His School	W: [18-23]	W: Reading Quiz on the Pythagoreans <b>Journal Entry on the Milesian 'Physiologi' due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 3</b> <b>M 9/11</b>	M: The Beginnings of Metaphysics: Xenophanes	M: [23-29]	M: Reading Quiz on Xenophanes
<b>W 9/13</b>	The Beginnings of Metaphysics: Heraclitus	W: [29-40]	W: Reading Quiz on Heraclitus
<b>Part II: Eleatics and Elementarists</b> Strepsiades And what are their arses looking at in the heavens? Disciple They are studying astronomy on their own account. - Aristophanes, <i>The Clouds</i>			
<b>Week 4</b> <b>M 9/18</b>	M: The Eleatics: – Parmenides	M: [40-47]	M: Reading Quiz on Parmenides
<b>W 9/20</b>	W: The Eleatics - Zeno	W: [47-51]	W: Reading Quiz on Zeno <b>Journal Entry on Xenophanes</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>M 9/25</b>	M: Elementalism – Anaxagoras – Empedocles	M: [75-80] [52-74]	M: Reading Quiz on Anaxagoras and Empedocles
<b>W 9/27</b>	W: Atomism – Democritus – Leucippus	W: [80-93]	W: Reading Quiz on Democritus & Leucippus <b>Journal Entry on Parmenides and 'Eleaticism' due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Part III: The 'Sophist' Movement</b> Socrates ...(W)e should send him to those who profess to be teachers of virtue and have shown themselves to be available to any Greek who wishes to learn, and for this fix a fee and exact it?			

<p><b>Anytus</b> And who do you say these are, Socrates?</p> <p><b>Socrates</b> You surely know yourself that they are those whom men call sophists.</p> <p><b>Anytus</b> By Heracles, hush, Socrates. May no one of my household or friends, whether citizen or stranger, be mad enough to go to these people and be harmed by them, for they clearly cause the ruin and corruption of their followers. - Plato, <i>Meno</i></p>			
<b>Week 6</b> <b>M 10/2</b>	M: The Sophists - Protagoras - Gorgias	M: [104-107] [107-112]	M: Reading Quiz on the Sophists
<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>W 10/4</b>	W: Socrates' 'Mission'	W: [Lecture]	<b>W: Journal Entry on Post-Parmenidean 'Elementalism' due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 7</b> <b>M 10/9</b>	M: An Example of Socrates' Method	M: [ <i>Euthyphro</i> 135-152]	M: Reading Quiz on <i>Euthyphro</i>
<b>W 10/11</b>	W: <i>Euthyphro</i> (cont.)	W:	<b>W: 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>Week 8</b> <b>M 10/16</b>	M: Plato <i>Meno</i> - Extending the Craft Analogy - The Paradox of Inquiry	M: [ <i>Meno</i> 241-250]	M: Reading Quiz on <i>Meno</i> (whole dialogue)
<b>W 10/18</b>	W: Plato <i>Meno</i> - Solution of the Paradox: <i>Recollection</i> - The Method of Hypothesis	W: [ <i>Meno</i> 250-266]	<b>W: Exam 1 due 12:00 Noon</b>
<b>Week 9</b>			

<b>M 10/23</b>	M: Plato <i>Republic</i> Is the Just Man the Happy Man?	M: [ <i>Republic</i> I 369-397]	M: Reading Quiz on <i>Republic</i> Bk. I-III
<b>W 10/25</b>	W: Plato <i>Republic</i> – The Ring of Gyges and the Problem of Justice – The Ideal City	W: [ <i>Republic</i> II, 398-423] [ <i>Republic</i> III, 424-455]	W: <b>Journal Entry on Socrates</b>
<b>Week 10 M 10/30</b>	M: Plato <i>Republic</i> – Justice, Psychic and Political – A Definition Found	M: [ <i>Republic</i> IV, 456-482; 507- 514]	M: Reading Quiz on <i>Republic</i> Bk. IV + Bk.V, 507-514
<b>Part VI: Plato: Metaphysics</b> In the beginning was the <i>deed</i> . – Goethe, <i>Faust</i> , Pt. I.			
<b>W 11/1</b>	W: Plato <i>Phaedo</i> – Mind and Body – Physicalism and the 'Simple <i>Aitia</i> '	W: [ <i>Phaedo</i> 267-319]	W: Reading Quiz on Phaedo <b>Journal Entry on 'Gyges' Ring' due 11:30 PM</b>
<b>Week 11 M 11/6</b>	M: Plato <i>Republic</i> – The Sun and the Good – the 'Divided Line'	M: [ <i>Republic</i> VI-VII 515-566]	M: Reading Quiz on <i>Republic</i> Bks. VI-VII, 515-566
<b>W 11/8</b>	W: Plato: Metaphysics – The Theory of Forms	W: [Lecture]	W: <b>Exam 2 Window opens 1:15 PM</b>  <b>Journal Entry on Plato's Philosophy of Mind due 11:30 PM</b>
<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)			
<b>Week 12 M 11/13</b>	M: Aristotle: Logic	M: [ <i>Categories</i> 694-700]	M: Reading Quiz on <i>Categories</i> , 694-700
<b>W 11/15</b>	W: Aristotle: Explanation – An Account of change – The Four Causes	W: [ <i>Physica</i> Bk I, 732-740; Bk II, 740-749]	W: <b>Exam 2 due 12:00 Noon</b>

<b>Week 13</b> <b>M 11/20</b>	M: Aristotle: Metaphysics – Substance	M: [ <i>Metaphysics</i> Bk I, 800-809] [ <i>Metaphysics</i> , Bk VII, 815-820]	M:
<b>W 11/22</b>	W: Aristotle: Metaphysics – Matter and Form – Essence	W: [ <i>Metaphysics</i> Bk VII, 821-833]	W: <b>Journal Entry on Plato's Metaphysics</b>
<b>Week 14</b> <b>M 11/27</b>	M: Aristotle: Metaphysics – Potentiality and Actuality	M: Metaphysics Bk VIII, 834-838]	M:
<b>Part VIII: Aristotle: Philosophy of Mind</b> 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)			
<b>W 11/29</b>	W: Aristotle on the 'Soul' – Body and Mind	W : [ <i>De Anima</i> , Bk I, 847-859]	W: Reading Quiz on <i>De Anima</i> , Bk I, 847-859
<b>Week 15</b> <b>M 12/4</b>	M: Aristotle: Philosophy of Mind – Perception – Cognition	M: [ <i>De Anima</i> Bk III, 859-867]	M: <b>Journal Entry on Aristotle's Metaphysics</b>
<b>W 12/6</b>	W: Aristotle: Philosophy of Mind – The 'Rational Soul' – The Active Intellect	W : [ <i>De Anima</i> Bk III, 867]	W: <b>Final Exam Window Opens 1:15 PM</b>
<b>Finals Week</b> <b>M 12/11</b>		M:	M: <b>Journal Entry on Aristotle's Philosophy of Mind</b>
<b>W 12/13</b>		W:	W: <b>Final Exam Window <u>Closes</u> 2:45 PM</b>

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

**Do well in all your courses this semester!**