

CLASSICAL GREEK PHILOSOPHY
PHILO 21200-01, FRI 9:45 AM – 11: AM; ONLINE

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Office hours: HW 1415. Online only.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to philosophy by focusing on Ancient Greek Philosophy. This course is ideal for Philosophy majors and minors, and those with an interest in studying philosophy systematically. The logic of the course lies in the fact that Greek Philosophy begins the tradition of Western philosophy and shapes it throughout history. This influence extends over various periods such as the Roman era, Middle Ages, Renaissance and Modernity, as well as across cultures including Jewish, Christian and Islamic philosophies. In recent history, thinkers as diverse as Freud, Darwin, Nietzsche and Marx borrow heavily from their Greek predecessors. Finally, disciplines as varied as theology, political theory, aesthetics, ethics and ontology develop as a series of responses to the way the Greek philosophy sets up their central problems.

In this course we will begin with the origins of Greek philosophy in myth, tragedy and epic. The bulk of this course will be devoted to the philosophies Plato and Aristotle; in order to understand them, we closely examine the Presocratic philosophers, Sophists. By close reading of these primary texts, we will inquire into reality, knowledge, perception, art, ethics, city, universe, soul and God. Finally, we will conclude with a lecture on the legacy of Ancient Greek thought.

Course requirements include attendance, class participation and one term paper.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Miller, Patrick Lee, C. D. C. Reeve, Lloyd P. Gerson, eds. *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2015.

You may buy a physical or electronic copy of the book. All textbooks are on order at Shakespeare & Co. Booksellers (939 Lexington Avenue between 68th and 69th streets; 212 570 0201). Shakespeare & Co. also has a limited number of used copies available at lower prices.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course covers the major thinkers of Early Greek and Classical Greek philosophy by closely following the assigned text. The lecture will cover basic themes in each assigned reading; students are responsible for reading the text and participate in class discussion.

In addition, the course will teach basic analytic and critical skills, especially how to read texts carefully paying attention to literary form, structure, context, and nuance. Students will learn how to interpret texts rigorously, to research secondary sources, and to reconstruct an argument in their own language.

Opportunities for class participation will allow students to develop the ability to formulate and discuss ideas, objections, and their own solutions to problems. The writing assignment will give students the opportunity to train their expository writing skills, i.e., organization, clarity, precision, and fluidity of expression.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. This course will be conducted online. To get the most out of this class, you will need a quiet place, internet connection, and a computer or a laptop equipped with video and audio systems.
2. We will meet once a week online, at the scheduled class time. Attendance of these sessions is mandatory and if you miss more than 2 sessions, your grade will suffer. This will be on every Friday.
3. In addition, Tuesdays are meant for presentations and discussion. I will be present online for these sessions. If you are presenting, you must show up and present in person. The rest may attend these sessions in person or watch a video of this session. You will be asked to post on Blackboard.

4. There are no midterm or final examinations.
5. This virtual classroom is still a CLASSROOM. Please be punctual and prepared.
6. Please respect the reason we are here: to learn, to share, to teach and to discuss ideas.
7. Follow appropriate classroom behavior. This includes not texting, not multi-tasking, and not being distracted or disturbing to the class.
8. Please keep your video ON, so we can create a classroom like environment. If your video is off, I will not know if you are paying attention, so I will call on you repeatedly with questions.
9. Please keep your audio on MUTE, so there is no unnecessary background noise.
10. If you wish to speak, unmute yourself. I encourage you to use the “RaiseHand” feature; this allows everyone to speak in an orderly manner.
11. You are free to use the chat box for discussions as well.

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/ or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call (212-772-4857)/TTY (212-650-3230).

GRADES AND REQUIREMENTS

Grading

1. Paper: 30 percent of your grade.
2. Presentation: 30 percent of your grade.
3. Blackboard discussion participation: 40 percent of your grade.

Rubric for Paper + Presentation

1. **BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION:** Each week, please participate in discussing the topic posted on Blackboard. It will contain questions on that week’s student presentation. Your post may be
 - a) a passage from the text we are reading and an explanation. If you are duplicating a passage already commented on by another student, make sure your explanation contains a different point of view.
 - b) a discussion of one point from the presentation, with a question for the presenter.
2. **PRESENTATION:** You must briefly summarize and present your assigned section in class (10-20 mins max). I will record your live presentation and post it to Blackboard for students who could not attend.

You will be graded according to the following rubric:

15 pts	Preparation: Did you read the material thoroughly? Did you prepare a proper handout? *
3 pts	Did you present the reading section fully and clearly?
8 pts	Did you identify main characters, themes, and events and present them clearly?
2 pts	Was your presentation well organized? Did you contextualize your narrative?
2 pts	Did you answer questions raised by students in the discussion group?

Please prepare a “handout” of the main argument contained in the section you are presenting. Outline the key terms, definitions, concepts, and themes; follow the text closely and select a few (no more than 5) quotes you think are significant. Upload this document as a pdf to Blackboard. Your text should be no more than 2 pages.

3. **PAPER:** you should expand your presentation summary by adding a detailed analysis (7 pages minimum, 12-point Times Roman font, double-spaced, stapled, clearly marked with your name). This paper is due the week after your presentation. The paper will be graded according to the following rubric:

Organization into a clear introduction, summaries and analysis. (2 pts)

Proper editing, free of grammatical errors and misspelling. (3 pts)

Concise summary of the section you presented (5pts)

Analysis of main characters (5 pts)

Analysis of main themes (5 pts)

Acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on the final exam, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) are serious offenses. You are required to cite all sources used (e.g., websites, books, or other materials) in footnotes or in parentheses. Students found guilty of plagiarism will automatically receive a grade of "F" for the course.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READING

This course is designed to cover 14 weeks. It is the student's responsibility to attend every single class to note the necessary reading material for the next class. In case a student is absent, it is the student's responsibility to find out what the assigned reading for the next class is.

CLASS PLAN

	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
August 28	Introduction	
September 1	No Presentation	
4	Early Greek Philosophy	ix-xviii
8	Presentation: Pythagoras	4-7
11	Pythagoras and Presocratic philosophy	
15	Presentation: Heraclitus	9-13
18	Parmenides	14-18
22	Presentation: Empedocles	22-27
25	Empedocles	19-27
29	Presentation: Milesian Monists	1-3
October 2	Introduction to Plato, Euthyphro	49-51
6	Presentation: Plato, Euthyphro	52-61
9	Plato, Apology	62-77
13	Presentation: Plato, Meno	91-112
16	Plato, Phaedo	112-121
20	Presentation: Phaedo	121-142
22	Plato's Doctrine of the Soul	No reading
27	Presentation: Phaedo	No reading
30	Plato, Republic	Gerson excerpts
November 3	Presentation: Plato, Republic, Book 1	Gerson excerpts
6	Justice, Reality, Appearance	Gerson excerpts
10	Presentation: Republic, Book 2,3	Gerson excerpts
13	Education of Guardians	Gerson excerpts
17	Presentation: Republic, Book 4, 5	Gerson excerpts
20	Plato, Divided line and Allegory of the Cave	Gerson excerpts
24	Presentation: Timaeus	Gerson excerpts
27	Thanksgiving	
December 1	Presentation: Aristotle, Categories	255-259
4	Aristotle, Metaphysics	291-309
8	Presentation: Aristotle, De Anima	281-290
10	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics	310-324
15	Presentation: Aristotle, Politics	344-356

HUNTER COLLEGE POLICY ON RECORDING OF CLASSROOM SESSIONS

1. Requirement of camera and audio:

- *Please be aware that the instructor in this course will require that the camera and audio be on during class sessions.*

2. Recording of sessions:

- *Students who participate in this class with their camera on or use a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded solely for the purpose of creating a record for students enrolled in the class to refer to, including those enrolled students who are unable to attend live. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live.*

- ⇒ Please note that this applies only to the Tuesday sessions; I will not be recording the Friday sessions, since in-person attendance is required for these sessions.
- ⇒ The recording of the Tuesday classes is for the benefit of students; class recordings will not be used as a means of determining class attendance.
- ⇒ For the Tuesday sessions, you have the right to opt out of being recorded: you can do so by turning off your camera/microphone and communicating with the class using, e.g., a chat function.
- ⇒ Note, however, that your presentation will be recorded, but, if you wish, only as audio. The visual component will be the PowerPoint you share.
- ⇒ For additional information, you may refer to the following CUNY statement on online courses:

Online courses are subject to the same CUNY policies as are in-person courses regarding academic integrity, the acceptable use of computer resources, equal opportunity and non-discrimination, sexual misconduct, workplace violence, domestic violence, and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

CUNY Academic Integrity Policy:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/>

CUNY Policy on Acceptable Use of Computer Resources: <https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/cis/it-policies/ComputerUsePolicy1.pdf>

CUNY Policy on Acceptable Use of University Data in the Cloud:

<https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/cis/information-security/security-policies-procedures/Acceptable-Use-of-University-Data-in-the-Cloud-2019-8-19a.pdf> (and related

Data Classification Standard: <https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page->