

Phil 210: Ancient Greek Philosophy

Summer Session II, 2018

Mon. – Fri., 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Caldwell Hall, Rm 103

INSTRUCTOR

Phil Bold

Graduate Student, Teaching Fellow

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Office: Caldwell Hall 12A (in the basement)

Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:20am – 11:20am (and by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of three major figures in the Ancient Greek tradition: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. We will begin by studying a number of central questions raised by Socrates in the *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Crito*, namely, What is justice?, Do we have any reason to be moral?, What does it mean to live a good, fulfilling, or happy life?, Does living well require knowing and understanding ourselves—and if so, why?, among others. We will then spend the rest of the session carefully examining the views of Plato and Aristotle, with particular emphasis on how their systematic philosophies are meant to answer the Socratic questions and challenges listed above. Throughout the session, we will explore central topics in ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, and political philosophy, and so this course will serve as a general introduction to the fundamental problems and preoccupations of Western philosophy. Although we will primarily attempt to understand the systematic views of these authors as expressed in their most influential works, namely, Plato's *Republic*, and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, students will also be required to formulate their own considered views on the fundamental topics of the course, especially as they relate to our social, ethical, and political life today.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Total Possible Points = 466

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|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| (1) Weekly Reading quizzes: 50 pts (x10, 5 pts each) | [Roughly 10%] |
| (2) 1 page Reflection paper on Happiness: 20 pts | [Roughly 5%] |
| (3) 1 page Exegetical paper: 20 pts | [Roughly 5%] |
| (4) 3 page Critical papers: 120 pts (x2, 60 pts each) | [Roughly 25%] |
| (5) 2 page Film Response paper: 55 pts | [Roughly 10%] |
| (6) Midterm Exam: 45 points | [Roughly 10%] |
| (7) Final Exam: 45 points | [Roughly 10%] |
| (8) Attendance: 46 pts (2pts per class) | [Roughly 10%] |
| (9) Participation: 65 pts | [Roughly 15%] |

NOTE: Following University standards, this course requires 10 pages of writing outside of class.

(1) Weekly Reading Quizzes:

These quizzes are not meant to be difficult—they are simply meant to keep students on top of the reading assignments. There will be 2 quizzes per week, 10 quizzes overall. 1 quiz will be issued on either Monday or Tuesday, the other on either Thursday or Friday (the specific days will not be announced in advance!). Each quiz will be worth 5 points, and include three questions:

1. A question directly related to the reading assigned on the day of the quiz. (2pts)
2. A question directly related to discussion in the previous class. (2pts)
3. A general reflection question, designed to exercise critical thinking and imagination. (1pt)

Questions 1 and 2 are meant to be extremely easy, as long as you completed the reading assignment, and as long as you attended and payed attention to discussion in the previous class. Question 3 will not, generally speaking, presuppose any specific knowledge of the text or previous discussions—it is primarily designed to allow one the opportunity to exercise their critical thinking and imagination regarding central topics of the course.

(2) – (5) Written Assignments :

(Double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins)

There are five papers that need to be submitted to Sakai by 11:59 pm on the following days:

Reflection Paper on Happiness (1 page) due: WED., JUNE 27TH

Exegetical Paper on the *Euthyphro* (1 page) due: FRI., JUNE 29TH

First Critical Paper on Plato's *Republic* (3 pages) due: WED., JULY 18TH

Second Critical Paper on Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (3 pages) due: MON., JULY 30TH

Film Response Paper (2 pages) due: WITHIN A WEEK OF FILM SHOWN.

Paper assignments and further instructions will be posted on Sakai (Assignments folder).

No *drafts* will be accepted, BUT you are strongly encouraged to visit office hours to discuss paper assignments, your outlines, core arguments, or related course material with me.

Late papers: Unless special permission is obtained from the instructor **in advance**, late papers will not be accepted without grade penalty. ***No excuse is required when requesting an extension.*** Extensions are granted liberally, but you **MUST** make a request at least 1 day before the official deadline, at which point we will determine the new deadline. When papers are turned in late without special permission, 20% of the grade will be deducted for each calendar day that the paper is late.

Plagiarism: All students are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code of Honesty. Plagiarism will be punished as severely as the university allows and result in a final grade of F for the course. Please make yourself familiar with the university's policies on plagiarism, and if you have any questions about how to cite sources, please ask me and/or take the following plagiarism tutorial: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism>.

Grading: Below is a list of criteria that will be used to evaluate your paper (note that the %'s only give a *rough* indication of how important these aspects are, and that not all of the criteria will apply equally to each of the

different assignments; this is not a mathematical scale). There will be slightly different standards for each of the individual assignments, which I will state when those assignments are announced.

1. Quality of ideas (50%)
Range and depth of argument; fair representation of philosopher's position; logic of argument; quality and/or originality of thought; appropriate sense of the complexity of the topic; appropriate awareness of opposing views.
2. Organization and Argumentation (40%)
Clarity of thesis statement in the introduction; logical and clear arrangement of ideas; effective use of transitions; unity and coherence of paragraphs; good development of arguments through supporting details and evidence.
3. Clarity, style, and grammar (10%)
Ease of readability; appropriate voice, tone, and style for the assignment; clarity of sentence structure; grammatically correct sentences; accurate spelling; careful proofreading.

(6) – (7) Midterm & Final Exam

Your Midterm and Final exams are scheduled on the following days. Please remember to bring a blue book to the exam sessions.

Midterm Exam: TUESDAY, JULY 10th

Final Exam: MONDAY, JULY 30th (Location TBA)

For each of the exams, you will be asked to write short essays on 2-3 questions. The questions will, for the most part, be selected from those assigned during group discussions throughout the session. Any other questions in addition to these will be shared with students prior to the exam. Your short essays will be graded according to the same standards as your written assignments, bearing in mind that the circumstances of an exam make it more difficult to reach the same standards of quality.

One of the prompts for the Final exam is the following.

You wrote a short reflection paper about happiness at the beginning of the session. In light of the philosophical perspectives considered throughout the course, has your initial view about happiness changed? If so, how so? If not, why not? (Be sure in your response to briefly summarize your initial view and to explain your answer in detail, using specific examples from discussions in class, assigned texts, or lectures.)

(9) - (10) Attendance & Participation:

Attendance for each class is worth 2 points of the final grade. For any class that a student misses, an automatic 2 points will thus be deducted from their grade. Exceptions are only made in cases of emergency, medical or otherwise. Medical emergencies will require verification with an official doctor's note. The participation score will be decided at the end of the semester on the basis of the following expected behavior, or lack thereof:

- Regular attendance in class
- Thoughtful and respectful questions/comments during class discussion
- Respectful dialogue with peers
- Supportive and constructive feedback to peers in response to their questions/comments

- General attentiveness during lecture and discussion
- Comments/questions that show understanding of the course material, and the major problems that we will be grappling with in the course

Group Work: I will regularly assign people to small groups (4-5 students) for discussion over various questions related to topics of the course. This will be an extremely important time for students to exhibit the virtues listed above. Students will be expected to engage in constructive, and lively discussion with their peers, which will require careful reading of the texts assigned for that particular day. Unless we suffer from lack of time, group discussion will come to completion with a final class-wide discussion. During class-wide discussion, I will call on groups to summarize their conversation, and/or to answer the questions they have been assigned. I will call on groups in no particular order, and I will call on particular students, rather than giving groups the option to choose who will represent them. **This means that every group member should feel prepared to summarize their conversation, and/or to answer the question(s) they've been assigned.** I also encourage groups to raise questions for the class if they have encountered any questions or confusion. As the class-wide discussion is open to all students, other groups can feel free, and are encouraged, to answer questions that have been raised.

Students should feel free to contact me or meet with me during office hours if they are concerned about their participation grade for the course.

NOTE: Unless you have special permission from the instructor, no computers or other electronic devices are allowed to be used in class. This is for your own benefit, I think, but also to the benefit of your peers. If you need special accommodations, please contact me asap.

GRADING SCALE

F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
0	62	65	68	72	75	78	82	85	88	92	95

COURSE READINGS

(1) REQUIRED Plato, G.M.A. Grube (trans.), *The Trial and Death of Socrates* (2000), Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis/Cambridge.

(2) REQUIRED Plato, C.D.C. Reeve (trans.), *Republic* (2004), Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis/Cambridge. (referred to on syllabus as *Rep.*)

(3) REQUIRED Aristotle, C.D.C. Reeve (trans.), *Nicomachean Ethics* (2014), Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis/Cambridge. (referred to on syllabus as *NE*)

(4) Any additional readings will be provided in the Resources section on Sakai.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please check your email regularly regarding adjustments to reading assignments.

Week 1: The Trial and Death of Socrates

Mon. 6/25: Course Overview, Icebreakers, and Discussion on Happiness

Tues. 6/26: *Euthyphro*

Wed. 6/27: Film Day! – Documentary on Ancient Greece **REFLECTION PAPER DUE**

Thurs. 6/28: *Apology*

Fri. 6/29: *Crito* **EXEGETICAL PAPER DUE**

Week 2: Why be Moral?—The Fundamental Question of Plato’s *Republic*

Mon. 7/2: *Rep.* Book I

Tues. 7/3: *Rep.* Book II

Wed. 7/4: No Class

Thurs. 7/5: Film Day! – *Merchants of Doubt* (available for rental on Amazon)

Fri. 7/6: *Rep.* Book II, & *Rep.* Book IV

Week 3: The Ideal City, Democracy, and Answer to Thrasymachus’s Challenge

Mon. 7/9: *Rep.* Book IV

Tues. 7/10: MIDTERM EXAM—Please remember to bring a blue book!

Wed. 7/11: Jim Pryor’s “Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper” (on Sakai),
Rep. Book III (412b – 417a5), & *Rep.* Book V (449a – 455c)

Thurs. 7/12: *Rep.* Books VI (502c5 – 511e5), & Book VII (514a – 521b10)

Fri. 7/13: *Rep.* Book IX

Week 4: Aristotle’s Search for *Eudaimonia*

Mon. 7/16: *NE*, Book I

Tues. 7/17: *NE*, Book I

Wed. 7/18: Film Day! – *Happy*, Documentary **1st CRITICAL PAPER DUE**

Thurs. 7/19: *NE*, Book II

Fri. 7/20: ~~*NE*, Book III~~ **Class Cancelled**

Week 5: Virtue, Wisdom, Friendship, and the Divine

Mon. 7/23: *NE*, Book II (See chart in Note 185)

Tues. 7/24: *NE*, Book VI (Chapters 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11-13), and Payne, “Weapon Bias” (On Sakai)

Wed. 7/25: *NE*, Book VIII & IX (Selections TBA)

Thurs. 7/26: *NE*, Book X (Chapters 6-9)

Deadline for All Film Responses

FINAL EXAM: Monday, July 30th, Location TBA—Please remember to bring a blue book!

2nd CRITICAL PAPER: Due before midnight on Monday, July 30th