

PHIL 310: Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

11:00 - 11:50 MWF, 240A MCK

Fall 2008, CRN 14286

Dr. Ted Toadvine (toadvine@uoregon.edu)

Office: PLC 319; Tel: 346-5554

Office Hours: MW 9:30 - 10:30, and by appt.

GTFs

Sarah Adams, slachanc@uoregon.edu Office: 324 PLC Office Hours: MW 12-1 Sections: F 1:00 - 1:50, 473 MCK F 2:00 - 2:50, 473 MCK	Mat Foust, mfoust@uoregon.edu Office: 317 PLC, 346-5552 Office Hours: MW 12:00 - 12:50 Sections: F 2:00 - 2:50, 353 PLC F 3:00 - 3:50, 353 PLC	Al Frankowski, afrankow@uoregon.edu Office: 333 PLC Office Hours: MW 12:00 - 1:00 Sections: F 1:00 - 1:50, 475 MCK F 2:00 - 2:50, 475 MCK
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our course surveys the development of the Western philosophical tradition from the pre-Socratic Greeks through the late Medieval period, a span of nearly 2000 years, with a particular focus on questions of natural philosophy and metaphysics, the nature of philosophical reflection, and the development of perspectives on ethics, faith, and the divine. We begin with the study of fragments from key pre-Socratic thinkers, especially the Milesians, Pythagorus, Heraclitus, the Eleatics, and the pluralists, as they begin the search for a philosophical account of nature. Turning then to the dramatic figure of Socrates, we will explore his maeutics and account of the philosophical vocation, followed by the mature Platonic view of knowledge and reality. We will consider Aristotle's account of nature, the soul, and the divine as they provide a foundation for his perspective on ethical virtue and the *eudaimon* life, then trace the transformation of his views during the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the writings of the Epicureans and Stoics. We conclude with an exploration of the foundations of Christian theology in the Medieval period, especially its debt to Greek philosophy, first in Augustine's appropriation of Neo-Platonism, and finally with the Scholastic adoption of Aristotle through the writings of Thomas Aquinas.

Required for all majors and minors in Philosophy.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Forrest Baird and Walter Kaufmann, eds., *Ancient Philosophy*, 5th ed. (Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2008).
- Saint Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford World Classics, 1998).
- Additional short texts posted on blackboard, <https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. participation & attendance	10%
2. two take-home essays (4-6 pages, 20% each)	40%
4. midterm and final exam (25% each)	50%

◦ **Class Participation/Attendance:** You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes reading all assigned material prior to class and participating productively and respectfully in class discussion. It is your responsibility to document your attendance at each lecture and discussion section by signing an attendance roll. Missing FIVE classes FOR ANY REASON, including discussion sections as well as lectures, will result in a full grade reduction. An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the fifth. Three late arrivals or early departures will count as one absence. In the event that you will miss five or more classes due to extended illness or university obligations, you must provide verifiable documentation in order to avoid penalty to your grade. Discussion is crucial to this class, and your GTF and I will do our best to make you feel at ease and welcome to contribute to the conversation. The best way to understand these sometimes difficult and controversial topics is to talk about them with each other, so please feel free to contribute any question, objection, or other thought about the topic at hand when such occurs to you. Although no relevant remark is out of bounds in this class, you will be expected to treat all members of the class with courtesy and respect. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. Absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

◦ **Take-home essays:** Two 4-6 page essays will be required in response to essay questions posted on Blackboard (accessed from the UO homepage or at <https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>). Essays are due in class on the dates specified

on the syllabus; no emailed essays will be accepted. Essays should have standard fonts and margins and must be **typed, stapled, proof-read, double-spaced. Include your name, your GTF's name, and the time that your discussion section meets on the first page** (please do not use a cover page.) Essays not meeting these requirements will not be graded. Essays not brought to class on the assigned date will be treated as late, and late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Each essay will be worth 20% of the final course grade. Essay grading will follow the Philosophy's Department's standard grading rubric, which is posted on Blackboard.

◦ **Midterm and Final Exam:** Exams will draw from all material assigned as readings or discussed in class. A list of review terms and concepts will be posted on Blackboard prior to the exam date. Exams will include a mix of true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer (2-3 sentences) questions. The final will include only material covered after the midterm. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final course grade.

POLICIES

Incompletes and extensions will be given only in the event of documented emergencies.

Retaining copies of all returned work: Please retain the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these original copies as documentation.

Computers and other electronic equipment: Use of electronic equipment, including cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS is prohibited during this class. Exceptions to the prohibition of laptops may be requested from the instructor and will be granted only for legitimate academic reasons. Use of laptops for academic reasons will be monitored throughout the term, and failure to restrict their use to this function will result in the revocation of any laptop privileges.

Academic Honesty: Please review and familiarize yourself with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct regarding academic honesty. You can find a summary in each term's Schedule of Classes or by the Office of Student Life's Duck Guide: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/duck_guide/duckguide.htm. Violations of academic honesty will be met with disciplinary action (the usual punishment is an "F" for the course). Definitions and examples of plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are posted on Blackboard.

Inclement Weather: It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Blackboard and through the Blackboard email system.

Individual Differences: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements, including the following:

- *Academic Learning Services (ALS):* ALS provides numerous resources (including courses, workshops, and tutoring) to help UO students succeed. They work with a diverse student body with a wide range of needs. If you are unsure which resources would work best, they are happy to answer questions and share suggestions. Web: <http://als.uoregon.edu> – Phone: 541-346-3226.
- *University Counseling and Testing Center (UCTC):* The UCTC provides comprehensive mental health care and testing services to the University of Oregon campus. The primary mission of the UCTC is to provide quality clinical/therapeutic services, psychological testing and assessment, psychoeducational workshops and outreach as well as emergency services. Web: <http://www.uoregon.edu/~counsel/> – Phone: 541-346-3227
- *Disability Services (DS):* DS coordinates services, provides advocacy and support to students with documented physical, learning, and psychological disabilities and provides assistance to the general campus community in responding appropriately to requests for accommodations based on disability. Web: <http://ds.uoregon.edu/> – Phone: 541-346-1155 TTY: 541-346-1083

TOPICS & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Subject to change as the course proceeds. Specific assignments will be announced at the beginning of each class.

Week 1: 9/29, 10/1, 10/3	Introduction to the course The Milesians, 8-13 Pythagoras, 14-16 Xenophanes, 17-18 Heraclitus, 18-21
Week 2: 10/6, 10/8, 10/10	Monists, 22-30 Pluralists, 31-42 Sophists, 43-48 Plato: <i>Euthyphro</i> , 70-82
Week 3: 10/13, 10/15, 10/17	Plato: <i>Apology</i> , 82-99 Plato: <i>Crito</i> , 99-107 10/17: Guest Lecture by Al Frankowski 10/17: ESSAY 1 Due in Lecture 10/17: All Discussion Sections Cancelled
Week 4: 10/20, 10/22, 10/24	Plato: <i>Phaedo</i> , 108-150 Plato: <i>Symposium</i> , 175-210
Week 5: 10/27, 10/29, 10/31	Plato: <i>Republic</i> , 210-283 10/29: Guest Lecture by Sarah Adams 10/31: Midterm Exam
Week 6: 11/3, 11/5, 11/7	Aristotle: <i>Physics</i> , 327-338 Aristotle: <i>Metaphysics</i> , 338-363 Aristotle: <i>On the Soul</i> , 364-369
Week 7: 11/10, 11/12, 11/14	Aristotle: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , 369-442
Week 8: 11/17, 11/19, 11/21	Epicurus, 458-481 Epictetus, 510-522 Plotinus, 540-558 St. Augustine, Bks. 1 & 2 11/21: Guest lecture by Mat Foust 11/21: ESSAY 2 Due in Discussion Sections
Week 9: 11/24, 11/26, {11/28}	St. Augustine, Bks. 7, 10-12 11/28: Thanksgiving Holiday
Week 10: 12/1, 12/3, 12/5	St. Anselm & Gaunilo (Blackboard) St. Thomas Aquinas (Blackboard)
Thursday, 12/11	Final Exam, 10:15 - 12:15