

History of Ancient Philosophy

Fall 2012, Philosophy 150

Dr. Krisanna Scheiter

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Office Hours: MWF 3-4pm and by appointment

Classroom: NWSE 116

Time: MWF 1:50pm-2:55pm

Office: Lamont 308

Course Description

An investigation of the origins of the western philosophical tradition in ancient Greece from the Presocratics to Plato and Aristotle. Topics to be discussed include: reality, knowledge, the nature of god and soul, our moral obligations to ourselves and others and the meaning of life.

Required Text

- Richard McKirahan, *Philosophy Before Socrates*, Second Edition, Hackett Publishing Co.
- Plato. *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*. Second Edition. Translated by G.M.A. Grube, Revised by John M. Cooper. Hackett Publishing Co.
- Aristotle. *Selections*, Translated by Terence Irwin and Gail Fine, Hackett Publishing Co.
- Plato. *Republic*. Translated from the New Standard Greek Text, with Introduction, by C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett Publishing Co.

Assignments

10% Participation

15% Discussion Board Posts

75% Term Papers (3 Papers, 25% each)

Resources

Writing Center: The Writing Center (second floor of Schaffer Library) provides free one-on-one consultation, both by appointment and as available on a walk-in basis. I encourage you to visit the writing center for any and all writing assignments. <http://www.union.edu/Resources/Academic/writing/index.php>.

Accommodations: It is the policy of Union College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please bring your accommodation ID card to your instructor's office hours as soon as possible. Your instructor will then discuss with you any necessary special arrangements. No accommodations will be provided to students who do not have an accommodation ID card from the Office of Student Support Services (x8785).

Assignments

Participation: This is a discussion-based course. Active student participation will be a central feature of the learning experience. Class discussion and office hours (in which we discuss class material) both count towards your participation grade. In order to ensure successful participation, it is important that you attend to two main tasks:

- **Reading Assignments:** You should complete the assigned reading prior to the class for which they are assigned in order to contribute meaningfully to class discussion. If you have not read philosophy before, you may find the readings difficult at first. Don't give up! As you read try to identify core claims and arguments. Take notes, jotting down questions or critiques.
- **Class Discussion:** You should contribute to class discussions regularly and in a respectful manner, either by asking questions relating to the topic or contributing your own meaningful insights. Discussion will be based on the reading assignments. One way to prepare for class discussions is by trying to answer the study questions at the end of the reading assignments.

Discussion Board: In order to get the maximum amount of points you must post a comment or question about the reading that we will be discussing in the next class, **by 9am** before class for 25 classes (which means there are 3 classes you do not have to post on). The forum will automatically close at 9am before class, so there is no way to make up a missed post. If you do not post on the discussion board by 9am you will not receive any points for that post. keep in mind that the discussion board is worth 15% of your grade so it is very important that you keep up with this assignment.

Term Papers: There are three term papers for the course. Each paper is 5-6 pages long. The paper topics will be assigned in advance and you will have a choice of topics on which to write. I will also provide you with a grading guideline and a guide to writing philosophy papers.

- **Writing Across Curriculum:** If it is approved this will be a WAC course. Either way there is a strong emphasis on writing and you are required to visit the writing center for your first paper. I will not accept the first paper without confirmation from the writing center that you have been there. Penalty for late papers is a 5% deduction for every day that goes by after the paper is due unless an extension has been granted in advance.

Expectations and Classroom Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the beginning of every class. You are permitted three unexcused absences (in which you do not have to notify me of your absence). Your grade will be dropped 3% for every unexcused absence after the first three. Excused absences are ones that have been approved by me in advance of the class.

Email

- Please feel free to email me any time, but allow me 24 hours to respond.
- If you have questions about the class or the assignments please **check the syllabus** first before emailing.
- If you cannot find it on the syllabus, then send me an email.
- If you have any questions about the content of the class or would simply like to discuss some philosophical thoughts of your own do not hesitate to come to my office hours or set up an appointment.

General Expectations

- Come to class prepared and **on time**.
- Turn off your phone, no texting, no laptops unless absolutely necessary, no newspapers, no talking to one another unless is it part of class discussion, no sleeping.
- You are expected to pay attention and engage respectfully with your classmates.
- If you must use your laptop for note taking, please be aware that you may not use the Internet *for any purpose* during class and you may wish to disable it if you will be otherwise tempted. Failure to abide by this requirement will result in loss of the privilege to use your laptop in class.

Plagiarism

Students are expected to adhere to the Union College Academic Honor Code, which you can access at:

www.union.edu/academic_depts/ethics/union/Honor%20Code.php

Topics and Readings

September 5: Introduction

THE PRESOCRATICS

September 7: Before Natural Philosophy (1-17)

September 10: The Milesians and Material Monism: Thales (18-31)

September 12: The Milesians and Material Monism: Anaximander (32-47)
and Anaxemines (48-57)

September 14: Heraclitus of Ephesus: The Unity of Opposites and Logos
(112-113, 115-120, 121-124, 128-134)

September 17: Parmenides of Elea: The One (145-166)

September 19: Anaxagoras of Clazomenae (193-197, 200-220)

September 21: Empedocles of Acragas (230-247, 256-264)

September 24: Leucippus and Democritus (303-324)

PLATO

September 26: *Apology* (21-43)

September 28: *Euthyphro* (1-20)
First Paper Due

October 1: *Meno* (58-79 (70a-86d))

October 3: *Meno* (79-92)

October 5: *Republic* I (1-35)

October 8: *Republic* II (36-65)

October 10: *Republic* III (66-102)

October 12: *Republic* IV (103-135)

- October 15: *Republic V* (136-175)
October 17: *Republic VI* (176-207)
October 19: No Class, Will Schedule Make Up
October 22: *Republic VII* (208-237)

ARISTOTLE

- October 24: *Categories* (1-12)
October 26: *Posterior Analytics* I 1-6; II 8-10, 19
Second Paper Due
October 29: *Physics* I 1-9; II 1-3, 8
October 31: *Physics* VIII 6, 258b10-259a15 and *Metaphysics* XII 6-10
November 2: *De Anima* I 1-4; II 1-6, 12
November 5: *De Anima* III 3-5
November 7: *Nicomachean Ethics* I.1-7, 13
November 9: *Nicomachean Ethics* II 1-6; V 1-2, VI 1-2, 5
November 12: *Nicomachean Ethics* X.6-9
November 16: **Final Paper Due**