

Philosophy 2310-001- **Introduction to Ancient Philosophy**

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Office Hours: **Mon/Wed 3:30-5:00** and by appointment

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OBJECTIVE

To learn about ancient Greek philosophy, the historical roots of Western philosophy .

TEXTS

R. D. McKirihan, Jr., Philosophy Before Socrates (Hackett)

Great Dialogues of Plato (Mentor)

Richard McKeon, ed., Introduction to Aristotle (Modern Library)

REQUIREMENTS

1. A 5-minute, 5-item, multiple-choice/true-false **reading quiz** will be announced for each reading assignment. No late reading quizzes will be administered or accepted, but the worst two grades will be dropped. The average score of the remaining quizzes will = 1/5 (20%) the course grade.
2. Three **tests**--one after each course section outlined below--will be administered; each = 1/5 (20%) the course grade.
3. **Friday discussion session**—attendance (more than two absences will result in a lowered grade for this item) and participation required = 1/5 (20%) the course grade.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Semester weeks

Topics

- I. Philosophy on Trial; Natural Philosophy
1. Introduction to course & Philosophy on trial  
**Read:** The Apology, Great Dialogues of Plato, pp. 423-446.
  2. Hesiod  
**Read:** Philosophy Before Socrates, pp. 1-19
  3. The Milesians  
**Read:** Philosophy Before Socrates, pp. 20-78
  4. Heraclitus and the Eleatics  
**Read:** Philosophy Before Socrates, pp. 116-195
  5. Empedocles and the Atomists

**Read:** Philosophy Before Socrates, pp. 232-291; 303-343

6. **REVIEW and FIRST TEST**

II. The Pythagoreans, Socrates, and Plato

7. Pythagoreanism

**Read:** Philosophy Before Socrates, pp. 79-115

8. Socrates/Plato: On Justice

**Read:** Republic Book I, 1/2 Republic Book II, Great Dialogues of Plato, pp. 125-173.

9. Socrates/Plato: On Virtue and Knowledge

**Read:** Meno, Great Dialogues of Plato, pp. 28-68.

10. Plato: On Being and Becoming

**Read:** Republic 1/3 Book V, Book VI, 1/3 Book VII, Great Dialogues of Plato, pp. 271-319.

11. **REVIEW and SECOND TEST**

III. Aristotle

12. The Four Causes and Aristotle's Epistemology

**Read:** Physics Book II, Metaphysics Book I, Introduction to Aristotle, pp. 115-138; 241-273.

13. Aristotle's Psychology

**Read:** Psychology Books I, II, III, The Philosophy of Aristotle, pp. 145-235

14. Aristotle's Ethics

**Read:** Ethics Books, I, II, X, The Philosophy of Aristotle, pp. 308-347; 518-543

15. Catch up and Review

16. **THIRD TEST**

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICIES

Regular attendance at the lectures is strongly recommended. If you miss a class you may miss a reading quiz or not hear about an assignment, and you will certainly not get information that will appear on the test. Absenteeism may therefore adversely affect your grade. Attendance at the Friday discussion session is required. More than two absences will result in a reduction of your grade for that category. All graded work may be reviewed on appeal to insure against error. 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F.