

**Missouri State University
College of Humanities and Public Affairs
Department of Philosophy**

**Fall 2016
Syllabus & Schedule**

Course: History of Western Philosophy: Ancient, PHI 306

Credit hours: 3

Time and Location: MWF 11:15–12:05, Strong 301

Email: patrickbeach@missouristate.edu

Office: Strong 329

Telephone 417-836-5720 (I am easier to reach by email)

Office Hours: MWF 9:00–10:00, R 9:30–11:00, and by appointment

Course Website: blackboard.missouristate.edu

Communication Policy: I will respond to emails within 24 hours (but usually sooner). The same is expected of students.

Required Texts

- S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, and C. D. C. Reeve. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy From Thales to Aristotle*. Fourth Edition. Hackett, 2011
- Supplemental materials will be posted on or linked from Blackboard.

Course Description

Historical study of ancient philosophy based on the reading of representative writings of major philosophers.

Course Goals

1. Students will be acquire a durable understanding of ancient Greek and Roman views concerning the nature of reality, knowledge, human nature, and the good life.
2. Students will be strengthen their ability to critically read, reconstruct and evaluate arguments, communicate both orally and in writing, and work with seminal texts in and out of class.

3. Students will develop intellectual receptivity to modes of thinking and expression that differ strongly from our native modes, and students will develop the willingness and ability to seriously consider views that might appear to be naïve or otherwise obviously defective.

Course Requirements

Work Load Estimates: In a typical week, you should expect to devote about 9–12 hours to the reading and writing for this course. Sometimes the readings are long and sometimes they are quite difficult. You will need to invest time in preparing for class.

Means of Assessment: (A) Three exams and (B) class prep questions (CPQs). There will be 28 CPQs, of which I will count 25.

Class Prep Questions: These short assignments are intended as starting points for class discussion. Bring **two** copies to the start of class, one for me to grade and a second for you to reference and revise in light of class discussions. Since it's helpful to get feedback, I will return *up to three* with comments. Please mark clearly on your turned-in copy that you want feedback. Grading criteria: (1) typed and turned in (in person) at the start of class (and you stay for the class) and (2) it gives clear evidence of a good-faith effort in answering *all* of the questions. Your grade on each CPQ will be either a 1 or a 0. Grades for the total CPQs are as follows:

25 = A+	22 = B+	19 = C+	16 = D+	<14 = F
24 = A	21 = B	18 = C	15 = D+	
23 = A–	20 = B–	17 = C–	14 = D–	

Grading Proportions

Exam 1: 20% (in-class)

Exam 2: 30% (take-home)

Exam 3: 30% (in-class)

CPQs: 20%

Course Grading Scale

94–100% = A

90–93% = A–

87–89% = B+

84–86% = B

80–83% = B–

77–79% = C+

74–76% = C

70–73% = C–

67–69% = D+
60–66% = D
0–59% = F

See <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html> for an explanation of what the grades mean.

Extra Credit: I offer no extra credit. Take your grades seriously from day one of this course. At the end of the semester there is *nothing* you can do to improve your grade other than do your best on the remaining assignments.

Policies

- My expectation is 100% attendance. At the end of the semester, I drop the lowest three scores of your CPQ assignments (that gives you three misses for personal reasons that will not penalize you). This policy of dropping low-stakes scores is to cover instances where you have a good excuse for not being in class that does not meet the requirements for making up work listed below. For example, if you are sick (or someone you are caretaker for is sick) and there's no doctor's note documenting that, and you miss turning in a CPQ, you can't make it up, but it should not hurt your grade. Or, you have car problems or work, you cannot turn in your CPQ late, but it should not hurt your grade (because of the policy of dropping the lowest three). The intent of the policy is to recognize that there are genuinely good reasons to miss a class, but to keep the administration of makeups to a reasonable level. That being said, here is the official make-up policy: I *only* allow make-up work in cases which can be documented for (a) a death in your family, (b) extreme illness, (c) religious observation, or (d) your representation of MSU in some official capacity (such as presenting at a conference). Any work to be made up for documented excuses must be made up within one week of your return to campus.
- Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. You are responsible for knowing and following the University's academic integrity policy plus additional more-specific policies for each class. The University policy, formally known as the "Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" is available online at http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy, up to and including failing the course with a grade of XF.
- Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252. Other

types of concerns (i.e., concerns of an academic nature) should be discussed directly with your instructor and can also be brought to the attention of your instructor's Department Head. Please visit the OED website at www.missouristate.edu/equity/.

- To request academic accommodations for a disability, contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192 or 417-836-6792 (TTY), www.missouristate.edu/disability/contact.htm. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to the Disability Resource Center prior to receiving accommodations. The Disability Resource Center refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 417-836-4787, <http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc>.
- As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students who are members of the community. When cell phones or pagers ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore, the Office of the Provost prohibits the use by students of cell phones, pagers, PDAs, or similar communication devices during scheduled classes. All such devices must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class. Given the fact that these same communication devices are an integral part of the University's emergency notification system, an exception to this policy would occur when numerous devices activate simultaneously. When this occurs, students may consult their devices to determine if a university emergency exists. If that is not the case, the devices should be immediately returned to silent mode and put away. Other exceptions to this policy may be granted at the discretion of the instructor. In addition, this class is technology free: use of cell phones, tablets, and laptops is forbidden (except for those whose documented disability requires an electronic accommodation). Bring your reading to class every day (well read and marked up). Take copious lecture notes with pen or pencil and paper.
- At the first class meeting, students should become familiar with a basic emergency response plan through a dialogue with the instructor that includes a review and awareness of exits specific to the classroom and the location of evacuation centers for the building. All instructors are provided this information specific to their classroom and/or lab assignments in an e-mail prior to the beginning of the fall semester from the Office of the Provost and Safety and Transportation. Students with disabilities impacting mobility should discuss the approved accommodations for emergency situations and additional options when applicable with the instructor. For more information go to <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm> and <http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm>.
- It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the

Office of the Registrar at 836-5520. See Academic Calendars (www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html) for deadlines.

- Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.
- The University may provide a reasonable accommodation based on a person's sincerely held religious belief. In making this determination, the University reviews a variety of factors, including whether the accommodation would create an undue hardship. The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the University. Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or other assignments as a consequence of their sincerely held religious belief shall be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a *Request for Religious Accommodation Form* to the instructor by the end of the third week of a full semester course or the end of the second week of a half semester course: <https://forms.missouristate.edu/reslife/religiouswaivermeningitis.php>.
- Respectful, professional, and civil conduct is the expected norm for the class.
- You are expected to check your MSU email daily and respond to any email that I send you (seeking a response) within 24 hours. You do not need to respond to informative emails from me. Any emails sent to me should be written to a professional standard (see "How to Email Your Professor" on Blackboard).
- The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, or to ensure better student learning.

Advice

- Read the material carefully and take reading notes as you go along. Mark up the text in meaningful ways as you read. While I sometimes will give some guidance on the material before you read it, some of it will still be difficult. Be prepared to read and re-read the material. Philosophy **cannot** be skimmed.
- Look up terms you don't understand.
- Write summaries of the readings, and write up what you think are the muddiest points in your understanding of the material.
- Get help with any writing problems that you know you have. I can help you and the writing center can help you. I expect college-level reading and writing skills.

- Come to office hours, and we can talk about the material. I am the most informed person you can talk to about this class—and the best free tutor you have for this course. Or set up discussion groups and invite me to participate. Warning: my time becomes very tight before exams.
- Philosophy is a *content-laden* discipline. We will pay attention to a lot of fine-grained details. So while looking at the big picture helps, much of what we will attend to (and you will be responsible for) is at the micro level. The devil is in the details.
- Students may vary in their abilities to read and write at the college level. You can expect to acquire these abilities only if you honor all course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student.

Tentative Schedule

Last Updated: August 21, 2016
(Subject to Revision)

Note: Readings are in S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, and C. D. C. Reeve. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy From Thales to Aristotle*, Fourth Edition, (CCR). or are posted as PDFs on Blackboard (Bb) unless otherwise noted.

Week / Week of	Topics, Readings, & Tests	Assigned Work
1	Topic 1: Presocratics and Sophists	
Aug. 22	The Milesians (CCR 1–17)	CPQ #1
	Pythagoras (CCR 18–23)	CPQ #2
2		
Aug. 29	Heraclitus (CCR 29–40)	CPQ #3
	Parmenides (CCR 40–47)	CPQ #4
3		Labor Day: Sept 5. No class.
Sept. 5	Leucippus and Democritus (CCR 80–93)	CPQ #5
	Protagoras and Gorgias (CCR 104–112)	CPQ #6
4	Topic 2: Socrates and Plato	
Sept. 12	<i>Euthyphro</i> (CCR 127–152)	CPQ #7
	<i>Apology</i> (CCR 153–178)	CPQ #8
	In-class exam: Sept. 16	Exam 1
5		
Sept. 19	<i>Crito</i> (CCR 179–192)	CPQ #9
	<i>Phaedo</i> (CCR 267–270, 281–293)	CPQ #10
6		
Sept. 26	<i>Meno</i> (CCR 241–266)	CPQ #11
	<i>Protagoras</i> (CCR 192–218)	CPQ #12
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Week / Week of	Topics, Readings, & Tests	Assigned Work
7		
Oct. 3	<i>Republic</i> , Books I & II (CCR 369–424)	CPQ #13
	<i>Republic</i> , Books V (CCR 515–542)	CPQ #14
8		
Oct. 10	<i>Republic</i> , Books VI & VII (CCR 515–568)	CPQ #15
	<i>Parmenides</i> (CCR 642–652)	CPQ #16
9	Topic 3: Aristotle	
Oct. 17	<i>Physics</i> , I & II, Ch. 1 (CCR 732–743)	CPQ #17
	<i>Physics</i> , II, Ch. 2, 3 (CCR 743–747)	CPQ #18
10	Take-home exam due: October 24	Exam 2
Oct. 24	<i>Metaphysics</i> IV 1–3, VII 1–6 (CCR 809–822)	CPQ #19
	<i>Metaphysics</i> VII 10–11 (CCR 822–828)	CPQ #20
11		
Oct. 31	<i>Metaphysics</i> VII 13, 15, 17, VIII 1, 2, 6 (CCR 828–838)	CPQ #21
	<i>De Anima</i> II 1–3 (CCR 851–856)	CPQ #22
12		
Nov. 7	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> I.1–2, I.7–8, II.1–6 (CCR 870–871, 874–880, 883–890)	CPQ #23
	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> VI.1, 2, 5, 13 (CCR 905–908, 912–913)	CPQ #24
13		
Nov. 14	<i>Politics</i> I.1–2, II.1–5; III.1, 4, 6–12 (CCR 930–951)	CPQ #25
	<i>Politics</i> VII.1–3, 13, 15 (CCR 951–960)	CPQ #26
Nov. 21	Thanksgiving Break	
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Week / Week of	Topics, Readings, & Tests	Assigned Work
14 Nov. 28	Topic 4: Hellenistic Philosophy Epictetus (Bb) Marcus Aurelius (Bb)	 CPQ #27
15 Dec. 5	 Lucretius (Bb) Cicero (Bb) Dec. 8: Last Day of Classes	 CPQ #28
Final Dec. 14	 Wednesday, December 14, 11:00–1:00	 Final Exam