

PHI 201: Ancient Philosophy
Wednesdays 3-3:30
Spring 2009
Blaney Hall Room 202

Instructor: Elizabeth M. Meade
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Office Hour: Wed. 10-12 and by appointment

Textbook: *Ancient Philosophy: Essential Readings with Commentary*

Course Description:

The philosophy of the ancient world of Greece and Rome is the source of much of our own Western civilization: our science, our politics, our arts, as well as our philosophical ideas about reality, human nature, and ethics. In this course we will examine ancient philosophy in depth in order to understand the beginnings of modern science, politics and philosophy.

Course requirements

Two short papers	50%	Attendance	10%
Midterm exam	20%	Final exam	20%

Course Policies

- Students must retain a hard copy of all submitted work
- Students must complete and submit all required work to pass
- Work that is submitted late without prior consent from the instructor will be penalized 1/3 grade per day until it is received
- Attendance is required and graded. Chronic lateness will result in a drop in the attendance grade.
- Plagiarism will be penalized either with a failing grade for the paper, or with a failing grade for the course, depending on the severity of the case, at my discretion

<p><i>Plagiarism is representing another person's words or ideas as your own. If you include words or ideas in your paper or test which come from another source, without letting me know with the appropriate documentation, you have plagiarized. The source can be anything: Web pages, newspapers, your textbook, a television show. There is an appropriate way to document every conceivable kind of source. It is plagiarism whether it is a direct quote, a paraphrase, or an idea. "Forgetting" to put in citations is not an acceptable excuse for plagiarism, any more than "forgetting to pay" is an acceptable excuse for shoplifting. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be dealt with seriously.</i></p>

Course objectives

By the end of this course, students will be expected to demonstrate. A good understanding of the major texts of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy

E-Companion

In order to reduce the use of paper, this course will utilize the eCompanion software to post all documents for the course: the syllabus, PowerPoint slides, paper topics, study guides, etc. I will not distribute paper copies in class, although I will project the documents in class and discuss them. You are free to print, if you need a print copy, but I encourage you to work with the electronic copy as far as possible. Please call IT at 3348 if you have trouble accessing the eCompanion site.

Honor Philosophy

This course will be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Cedar Crest College Honor Philosophy.

Email Policy

All communications must be made using Cedar Crest College email accounts. This is to protect your privacy, in accordance with federal law.

Class Cancellation Policy

In the event that I must cancel class, I will make every reasonable effort to email each of you at your Cedar Crest College account. If the cancellation is weather related, and the College is remaining open, you may check my voicemail at extension 3417. If I need to cancel class because of weather, I will leave an outgoing message on my voicemail advising students that class is cancelled.

Statement on Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss these needs with their professors during the first two weeks of class. Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations should contact the Advising Center.

Readings and Assignments

- Jan. 21 Introduction to the course
- Jan. 28 Greece before philosophy: Homer and Hesiod
Iliad handout: Books 1-IV
Available in full-text on-line at: <http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html>
Also on reserve at the library
- Feb. 4 Pre-Socratic Philosophy
Read: pp. 11-29
- Feb. 11 Pre-Socratic Philosophy
Read: pp. 30-40
- Feb. 18 Pre-Socratic Philosophy
Read: pp. 40-50 **First Paper Due**
- Feb. 25 Plato
Read: pp. 69-83 (Euthyphro)
- Mar. 4 Plato
Read: pp. 123-138 (Phaedo)
- Mar. 11 No Class – Spring Break
- Mar. 18 Plato
Read: pp. 198-205 (Parmenides) **Take-home Midterm Due**
- Mar. 25 Aristotle
Read: pp. 211-213, pp. 224-233 (Physics)
- Apr. 1 Aristotle
Read: pp. 243-267 (Metaphysics)
- Apr. 8 Aristotle
Read: pp. 268-280 (Nicomachean Ethics)
- Apr. 15 Epicurus
Read: pp. 309-321 **Second Paper Due**
- Apr. 22 Epictetus
Read: pp. 355-366
- Apr. 29 Proclus
Read: pp. 418-425