

SYLLABUS

I. General Information:

Office: 205A, Language Hall; Hours: 9:30am-10:00am MWF, by appt, DGQ
Phones: (770) 784-8361 (O); (770) 939-3308 (H); (770) 784-8361 or -4660 (Fax)
Class: 8:30-9:20am, MWF; Credit Hours: 4.0; Classroom: Seney Hall 301
Email address: JHKiersky@aol.com; or jkiersk@emory.edu; First Day: 08/29/2001
Schedule Change Period: 8/23-9/05/2001; Last Day of Classes: 12/11/01
Final Exam Date: Tuesday, 18 December 2001, 9am-12pm; OPUS# 3729

II. Textbooks:

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle, edited by
Cohen, Curd, and Reeve
On Free Choice of the Will, St. Augustine
Treatise on Law, St. Thomas Aquinas

III. Nature of the Course:

The course consists in a study of the main traditions in Ancient and Medieval Western thought, centering on three principal themes: Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. We will consider such questions as how one can know the Good, the True, or the Real; how one can lead the good life; how one might know Beauty; and how are we to understand the gods or God? In fine, we begin with a study of the cosmogeny and cosmology of the Pre-Socratics. Then we move to examine the two great intellectual systems of Ancient philosophy: Plato's idealism, and Aristotle's realism. Then, with the introduction of the Christian God into Western thinking, we move to considerations of how this intellectual history becomes altered in its understanding of the place of humans in the cosmos. In order to make this framework come alive and become something more than just the "history of dead white guys, part one", we will test this material against the backdrop of contemporary issues.

IV. Course Requirements:

- A. Quizzes and such. 20% of your course grade will come from a series of at least 5, but possibly as many as 15 short quizzes and other assignments. The quizzes will be announced at least one class period in advance and will also be posted to our conference site. The "and such" may be assignments such as a 'journal entry' which will be given in advance and due in at the next class period. Although make-up quizzes and such will not generally be given, except in extreme cases and at the discretion of the professor, you will be able to drop your lowest score on them.
- B. Examinations. There will be three mainly non-cumulative examinations during the course of the semester, each counting for 20% of your course grade. The nature of these exams will be discussed in advance and the dates will be promulgated as soon as they are known. They are

tentatively listed below in the course calendar for you professional time managers; however, those dates may be subject to change.

- C. **Class Participation.** For a class such as ours and of the size of a seminar, class discussion becomes a very crucial element, and in order to encourage it, ten percent of your course grade will be allocated to class participation. While there is no hard and fast formula for determining the numerical value, obviously a portion is simply class attendance.
- D. **Group Project.** Toward the end of the course, we will allocate several class periods to student presentation of material and ideas. Although this will be discussed in much greater depth, for now we can say that ten percent of the course grade will be allotted to the project and that the group size will be two to three students.

V. Course Calendar

Aug 29: Syllabus Day and introduction to the course

Aug 31: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes; Read pp. 1-23.

Sep 3: No class; Labor Day

Sep 5: Heracleitus – Empedocles; pp. 24-58.

Sep 7: Xeno – Melissus; pp. 59-79.

Sep 10: The Sophists; pp. 80-88. Background to Socrates.

Sep 12: Plato; introduction and *Euthyphro*; pp. 89-111.

Sep 14: Plato; the *Apology*; pp. 112-130.

Sep 17: Plato; the *Crito*; pp. 131-141.

Sep 19: Plato; the *Protagoras*; pp. 142-168.

Sep 21: Plato; the *Meno*; pp. 191-216.

Sep 24: Plato; the *Phaedo*; pp. 217-251.

Sep 26: Plato; the *Symposium*, pp. 252-262.

Sep 28: Plato; the *Republic*, Book I-II; pp. 263-317.

Oct 1: Plato; the *Republic*, Books III-IV, pp. 318-376.

Oct 3: Plato; the *Republic*, Books V-VI, pp. 377-435.

Oct 5: Plato; the *Republic*, Books VII-VIII, pp. 436-487.

Oct 8: Plato; the *Republic*, Books IX-X, pp. 488-535.

Oct 10: Examination #1

Oct 12: Mid Semester Break

Oct 15: Aristotle; introduction and *Categories, de Interpretatione*; pp. 577-602.

Oct 17: Aristotle; *Topics, Posterior Analytics*, pp. 603-625.

Oct 19: Aristotle; *Metaphysics*, pp. 690-727.

Oct 22: Aristotle; *Metaphysics*, pp. 727-740.

Oct 24: Aristotle; *De Anima*, pp. 741-763.

Oct 26: Aristotle; *Nichomachean Ethics*, pp. 764-784.

Oct 29: Aristotle; *Nichomachean Ethics*, pp. 784-807.

Oct 31: Aristotle; *Nichomachean Ethics*, pp. 807-823.

Nov 2: Aristotle; *Politics*, 824-839.

Nov 5: Aristotle; *Politics*, 839-854.

Nov 7: Examination #2

Nov 9: Augustine; *On Free Will*, pp. 1-28.
 Nov 12: Augustine; *On Free Will*, pp. 29-52.
 Nov 14: Augustine; *On Free Will*, pp. 52-69.
 Nov 16: Augustine; *On Free Will*, pp. 70-83.
 Nov 19: Augustine; *On Free Will*, pp. 83-91; 100-102
 Nov 21: Thanksgiving Break
 Nov 26: Augustine; *On Free Will*, pp. 103-129.
 Nov 28: Quiz on Augustine; Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, pp. 1-17.
 Nov 30: Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, pp. 18-43.
 Dec 3: Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, pp. 44-62.
 Dec 5: Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, pp. 63-78.
 Dec 7: Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, pp. 78-91.
 Dec 10: Quiz on Aquinas; Wrap Up; Course Evaluations

Final Exam is scheduled for 18 December 2001 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

VI. Varia:

- Incompletes may be given by the professor only in special hardship cases. Incompletes may not be used merely for extending the time for completion of course requirements.
- The Honor Code is made a part of this Syllabus and this class. All tests, examinations, papers, quizzes and journal entries are accepted as pledged work. If you are unsure about plagiarism, see the professor. A working definition may be found in the Student Survival Guide, but we can also say that plagiarism is the wrongful use and publication as one's own of the ideas, or the expression of the ideas, of another person. The extensiveness and the nature of the offense will determine the penalty, although customarily, cases of plagiarism are turned over to the Student Honor Council and a grade of "F" assigned for the course in question. The same will hold true for other forms of cheating.
- Students should consult the general catalog for information about the procedure to be used in requesting a hardship withdrawal. Hopefully, this will not be apposite, but if it is, by all means see me and we will contact the Dean's office.
- Make-up examinations are a privilege, not necessarily a right. If you are going to have to miss an examination, be sure to contact the professor as soon as you discover the situation.
- The last day for schedule changes and course cancellation is September 5th.
- The last day for withdrawal without a WF grade is October 3rd.
- Drop/Add period is August 27th through September 5th.
- Mid Semester Break is October 11th and 12th.
- Conferences: Office hours are listed in Part I of the Syllabus, and you are encouraged to make use of them. The professor is both willing and eager to discuss any aspect of the course or class with you, so if you find the conference hours inconvenient or impractical, just call and we can schedule something convenient for both of us. Spontaneity is fine as well.
- I check my email and my voice mail at least a couple of times a day if not more frequently, so you can always contact me that way.

- **Feel free to make use of our class conference to raise questions, offer ideas, or otherwise promulgate information pertinent to the class.**
- **If for some reason you missed the discussion of this Syllabus, you are still responsible for all the material contained herein.**
- **Be sure to check the academic calendar before making your Thanksgiving travel plans, as this year the Wednesday before Thanksgiving is NOT a holiday!**