

PHIL 234-1 (2463), 3 credits, Fall 2021, M & W 9:55am–11:10pm,

<http://scottoconnor.org/ancient>

Ancient Philosophy

Dr. Scott O'Connor

Office hours: <http://scottoconnor.org/contact/office/>

9/1/2021–12/21/2021

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the faculty. Students will be notified of such changes ahead of time via Blackboard.

Covid-19 Policies

I am very much looking forward to the day when the pandemic is behind us, but we're not quite there yet. In order to keep each other safe, please review and follow NJCU's Covid-19 related policies. I want to flag two. First, students must be vaccinated or receive a negative Covid-19 test weekly in order to attend in-person activities. They must be vaccinated by later in the semester. You can read about the dates and exemptions in the link below. State employees like faculty and staff have to follow a similar state wide policy. The second is that we all must wear masks in public spaces, i.e., in our classroom. The full policy is here:

- <https://www.njcu.edu/student-life/campus-services-resources/health-wellness-center/fall-2021-welcome-back-campus>

Since our classroom is HyFlex enabled, I also have course specific Covid-19 policies:

1. If you are unwell or think you have been exposed to Covid-19, do not attend class in-person. You may attend the class remotely, but you must message me through the Blackboard messaging app within one hour of class to receive the virtual link.
2. If you are unvaccinated and do not yet have the results of your weekly Covid-19 test, you must attend virtually until you have received your next negative Covid-19 test result. I will share the virtual link with you.

HyFlex

Our room is HyFlex enabled. This technology allows students attend the class remotely. Their images are projected on screens and their voices broadcast over speakers. Students attending in this way can see the classroom via cameras situated around the room. While the room has this technology, I will only allow students attend remotely if they have received my permission in advance. Apart from Covid-19 related issues detailed above, I will only grant permission to those with rare and compelling reasons; your preference to attend remotely is not a compelling reason. This course is scheduled as an in-person one, and I will only deviate from that when we have no other option. If you are granted permission to attend remotely, **you must turn on your camera**. Anyone attending remotely will be removed if they do not turn on their camera.

Copyright

The materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lectures, exams, quizzes, and homework assignments are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials or recording of lectures is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students.

Course Description

What do you know? Do you know anything? What exists? Are there objective truths about what's right and wrong for you to do, or is it all a matter of convention? Does being a moral person go against your self-interest? If so, why should you be a moral person? What is happiness? Will being a moral person contribute to your happiness? These questions were raised by philosophers speaking and writing in Greek over two millennia ago. In this course, we will think hard about these questions and try to identify how they were answered by three of the most influential philosophers of all time—Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course students will be able to (i) read philosophical texts, (ii) clearly and charitably explain viewpoints that are not their own, (iii) think critically and philosophically, (iv) write well-structured prose in which they clearly state a thesis and persuasively defend it, (v) demonstrate an understanding of the philosophies of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

Readings

Required Textbooks

Available in the campus book store and online retailers. Please bring the readings to class. Physical copies required.

- 'Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle', 5th edition, Cohen, Curd, Reeve

Optional

- 'Classical Thought', Terence Irwin, a general introduction to ancient philosophy.
- 'Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace', Joseph Williams and Joseph Bizup, a good guide on how to improve your writing.

Course Website

There is both a Blackboard site and website for this course (link on first page). Clicking the first link on the left panel within the Blackboard site will bring you to the course website. All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. Readings, notes, etc. will be posted on the course website. Note that Blackboard difficulties are rare and automatically reported to instructors. Under no circumstance will a student's report of a Blackboard difficulty be reason for an extension. It is your responsibility to contact Blackboard support for help.

Requirements

- *Workload*: expect to spend an average of 6 hours per week completing the readings and assignments. NJCU abides by the Federal and State definitions of a credit hour and adopts a policy consistent with the Carnegie Unit. A three-credit class represents 112.5 hours total of work. See [here](#) for more details.
- *Reading questions* submitted through Blackboard. These are multiple choice questions that you must complete before we discuss the material in class. 10 will be assigned. 8 must be completed. If more than 8 are completed, the lowest grades will be dropped.
- *Two papers* submitted through Blackboard. Each has a word limit of 1250-1500 words.
- *Final examination* submitted through Blackboard. This will be a take-home examination, requiring short answers and longer essays.
- *Course evaluations* completed online. 3 points extra credit for successful completion.

- *Grade Distribution:* Reading questions–5 points each (40 total); papers–15 points each (30 total); final examination–30 points.

- *Grade Breakdown:*

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|--------|-----|--|-------|----|
| 96–100 | A | | 77–79 | C+ |
| 90–95 | A- | | 73–76 | C |
| 87–89 | B+ | | 70–72 | C- |
| 83–86 | B | | 60–69 | D |
| 80–82 | B - | | 0–59 | F |

Policies

- **Student Responsibility:** This syllabus outlines the required text, assignments, requirements, and policies for this course. By taking this course, you agree to read this syllabus and be bound by those requirements and policies.
- *Academic Integrity:* All the work you turn in (including papers, drafts, and discussion board posts) must be written by you specifically for this course. It must originate with you in form and content with all contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Being a student at NJCU requires you to follow [NJCU's Academic Integrity Policy](#). Penalties for violations are as follows: 1st infraction will result in a 0 for the assignment. 2nd infraction will result in a 0 for the entire course & application for permanent record on student's transcript. (Repeated violations can lead to expulsion from NJCU).
- *Attendance:* You are considered absent if you are (i) not present during roll call, (ii) leave early, (iii) leave without permission, or (iv) leave for an extended period of time. No excuses. No exceptions.
- *Communication:* To comply with Federal Privacy Laws (FERPA) and NJCU policies, all communication will be through Blackboard and/or official NJCU e-mail. Check Blackboard daily. For further information see <http://scottoconnor.org/contact/>.
- *Conduct:* Distracting and disrespectful behaviors, including but not limited to eating, leaving your seat, talking out of turn, and aggression are prohibited. Penalties include, but are not limited to, a loss of participation points for the day of violation. Repeat offenders will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- *Electronic devices:* Use of electronic device, including, but not limited, to smartphones, dictaphones, tablets, and laptops, is prohibited. Recording a lecture is in violation of Copyright. Penalties include, but are not limited to, a loss of participation points for the day of violation. Repeat offenders will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- *Format for Written Work:* Submit work to Blackboard as either a pdf, rtf, or doc file. Blackboard will not allow any other format. All work must be typed and neatly presented.

- *Grading:* Grades will be available within 1–2 weeks of an assignment being submitted. See: <http://scottoconnor.org/resources/grading> for further information.
- *Late work & Make-up Policy:* See the assignment schedule below. No make-ups or late work accepted under any circumstances. No exceptions under any imaginable circumstances.
- *Statement for students with disabilities:* If you are a student with a disability and wish to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, please register with the Office of Specialized Services and Supplemental Instruction (OSS/SI). To begin this process, complete the registration form available on the OSS/SI website at <http://www.njcu.edu/oss> (listed under Student Resources-Forms). Contact OSS/SI at 201-200-2091 or visit the office in Karnoutsos Hall, Room 102 for additional information.
- *Turnitin:* Students agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. For further information about Turnitin, please visit: <http://www.turnitin.com>
- *SafeAssign:* Students agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review through Blackboard SafeAssign. Assignments submitted to SafeAssign will be included as source documents in SafeAssign's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents.

Weekly Course Schedule

Readings can be found in the required textbooks. See above for abbreviations. Some references are given by Stephanus numbers.

See <http://www.columbia.edu/itc/lithum/wong/stephanus.html> for an explanation.

Changes to the syllabus will be announced through Blackboard and via your NJCU email address. All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard by Sunday, 11:59pm. No late work accepted. No exceptions.

Table 1: Course Schedule

| Topic | Assignments | Reading |
|--|---------------|--|
| [1.] Introduction (9/1) No class on Monday Eastern Mediterranean in the 6th Century Homer and Hellenic Conception of the World | No assign. | |
| [2.] Socrates (9/6) No class on Monday Socrates and Athens | No assign. | – ‘Socrate’, 1st half (in class)’ |
| [3.] S. on knowledge (9/13) The elenchus The paradox of inquiry | Reading Qs 1 | – ‘Euthyphro’ (in RAGP) – ‘Meno’ (in RAGP) |
| [4.] Challenges (9/20) Relativism | Reading Qs 2 | – ‘Theaetetus’ (online) |
| [5.] S’s ethics (9/27) Unity of the virtues Weakness of will | Reading Qs 3 | – ‘Protagoras’ (in RAGP) |
| [6.] Continued (10/4) Knowledge and virtue Psychic harm | Reading Qs 4 | – ‘Apology’ (in RAGP) – ‘Crito’ (in RAGP) |
| [7.] S’s metaphysics (10/11) Mind and body Death | Reading Qs 5 | – ‘Phaedo’, 57a–69e (in RAGP) |
| [8.] Continued (10/18) Forms and explanations | Paper 1 | – ‘Phaedo’, 95a–118a (in RAGP) |
| [9.] Plato 1 (10/25) Glaucon’s Challenge | Readings Qs 6 | – ‘Republic’, Bk 2, 357a–377d (in RAGP) – ‘Republic’, Bk 4, 427d–434d (in RAGP) |

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Justice in the City | | |
| [10.] Plato 2 (11/1) | Reading Qs 7 | – ‘Republic’, Bk 4, 434d-445e (in RAGP) |
| Justice in the Soul | | |
| [11.] Plato 3 (11/8) | Readings Qs 8 | – ‘Republic’, Bk 8 & 9 (in RAGP) |
| Types of Constitutions | | |
| [12.] A’s predecessors (11/15) | Readings Qs 9 | – ‘Philosophy Before Socrates’, C. Shields, Ch.1 online – ‘Physics’, Bk 1 (in RAGP) |
| [13.] A. science (11/22) | Paper 2 | – ‘Physics’, Bk 2.1–3 (in RAGP) |
| Four causes | | – ‘Parts of Animals’, Bk 1.1 & 1.5 (in RAGP) |
| Teleology | | – Secondary literature, TBD (|
| [14.] Mind and body (11/29) | | – ‘De Anima’, TBD (in RAGP) |
| Four causes | | – Secondary literature TBD |
| [15.] A. ethics (12/6) | Readings Qs. 10 | – ‘Nicomachean Ethics’, Bk 1 & 2 (in RAGP) |
| [16.] Finals (12/13) | Final 12/15 | |