HON 360-1 (1739), 3 credits, Spring 2020, M & W 9:55am–11:10pm, K429
HON 360-2 (1740), 3 credits, Spring 2020, M & W 11:20am–12:35pm, K432

http://scottoconnor.org/ancient

Ancient Philosophy

Dr. Scott O'Connor
Office hours: http://scottoconnor.org/contact/office/

1/21/2020–5/13/2020

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.

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
- 'The Penguin Historical Atlas of Ancient Greece', by Robert Market

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

- *Experiential learning:* this course contains a mandatory study abroad trip to Greece. In order to pass the course, you must participate in this trip and complete the associated assignments. Those unable to travel must have received an exemption from either the Honors Director or Mr. Craig Kratz prior to the start of the course. Exempted students must visit assigned sites in the New York metro area during spring break and complete a series of associated assignments.
- *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.

- *Participation:* 0.5 point will be awarded per class up to a maximum of 8 points. Points will not be awarded during weeks 1 & 2. Participation points will be awarded if you attend, stay alert, stay for the duration of the class, leave your electronic devices turned off and out of sight, are cordial and non-disruptive, try to contribute to our discussions.

- *Gobbets (250–500 words)* submitted through Blackboard. The first is due at the beginning of week 3. 8 will be assigned. You must complete 6. If you complete more than 6, the highest 6 grades will be recorded. You will complete these questions before we discuss the texts in class. This is by design.

- *Experiential learning related assignments:* short reflective on-site assignments (20 points total).

- *Individual research project:* The course project will include a proposed question and exploratory paper (10 points), first draft (10 points), presentation (10 points), and final paper (18 points).

- *Course evaluations* completed online. 3 points extra credit for successful completion.

- *Grade Distribution:* Participation–0.5 point per class (8 total); Gobbets–4 points each (24 total); experiential related–20 total; research project 48 total.

- *Grade Breakdown:*

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 Safe-

Assign'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

Week	**Assignments**	**Reading**
[1.] Introduction (1/20) **No class on Monday**		–'Socrate', 1st half (in class)'
[2.]Presocratics (1/27)	No Assign.	– 'Philosophy Before Socrates', C. Shields, Ch.1 online
[3.] S on knowledge (2/3)	Gobbet 1	–'Euthyphro' (in RAG) –'Meno' (in RAG)
[4.] S's trial & defense (2/10)	Gobbet 2	–'Apology' (in RAG) –'Crito' (in RAG)
[5.] S on death (2/17) **No class on Monday**	Gobbet 3	–'Phaedo', 57a–69e (in RAG)
[6.] Continued (2/24)	Gobbet 4	–'Phaedo', 69e–95a (in RAG) –'Phaedo', 95a–102a (in RAG)
[7.] S on immortality (3/2)	Expl. Essay	–'Phaedo', 102b–118a (in RAG) –'Socrate', 2nd half (in class)'
[8.] Greece (3/6-3/15)		

Or alternative

[9.] **No classes** (3/16)	Research Q.	
[10.] Plato 1 (3/23)	Gobbet 5	–Glaucon's Challenge, 'Republic', Book 2, 357a–369a (in RAG)
Ethics Wed		
[11.] Plato 2 (3/30)	Gobbet 6	–Justice in the City, 'Republic', Book 2, 369a–377d; Book 4, 427d–434d (in RAG) –Justice in the Soul, 'Republic', Book 4, 434d-445e (in RAG)
[12.] Plato 3 (4/6)	Project Draft 1	–Philosophers must rule, 'Republic', Book 6 (in RAG) –A ruler's education, 'Republic', Book 7 (in RAG)
[13.] A on knowledge (4/13)	Gobbet 7	–'Posterior Analytics', Book 1.1–6, (in RAG) –'Physics', Book 1.1, Book 2 (in RAG) –'Parts of Animals', Book 1.1 & 1.5 (in RAG)
[14.] A's science (4/20)	Gobbet 8	– 'Physics', Book 6 (in RAG) – 'Physics', Book 8 (in RAG)
[15.] Presentations 1 (4/27) (No class Mon, double class Wed)	No assign.	
[16.] Presentations 2 (5/4) (Double class Mon, no class Wed)	Slides	
[17.] No classes (5/11)	Research Project	