

Phil 234-1 (2693), 3 credits, Spring 2016, M&W 16:00–17:15, H220

<http://scoconno.github.io/Teaching/Ancient>

Ancient Philosophy

Dr. Scott O'Connor

Office hours: <http://scoconno.github.io/Contact/Office/>

1/16/2018–5/14/2018

Copyright

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Catalog 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, Aristotle, and the Hellenistics.

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, Aristotle, and the Hellenistics.

Readings

Required Textbooks

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

- 'Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle', 5th edition, Cohen, Curd, Reeve
- 'Hellenistic Philosophy', Hackett Classics, 2nd Edition
- 'Clouds', Aristophanes

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 5 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 10 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, make some aim to contribute to the topic at hand.

- *Reading questions* 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 5, the lowest grades will be dropped. You will complete these questions before we discuss the texts in class. This is by design.
- *Travel related assignments*: (i) short reflective on-site assignments (20 points total), (ii) course project (40 points). The course project will include a proposed question, annotated bibliography, presentation, and two drafts.
- *Course evaluations* completed online. 5 points extra credit for successful completion.
- *Grade Distribution*: Participation–0.5 point per class (10 total); Reading Questions–6 points each (30 total); travel related (60 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 smart-phones, 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 marked with a ‘**’ can be found on the course website. All other listed readings can be found in the required textbook. Changes to the syllabus will be announced through Blackboard and *via* your NJCU email address. All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard by Monday, 11:59pm. No late work accepted. No exceptions.

Table 1: Course Schedule

Week	Assignments	Reading
[1.] Introduction (1/16)		
[2.] Socrates (1/16)		–Socrate in-class, Euthyphro
[3.] Bad Influence? (1/29)	Gobbet 1	–Meno, (Laches or some other 'what is it')
[4.] Trial & Defense (2/5)	Gobbet 2	–Apology –Aristotphanes, Clouds
[5.] Socrates' Escape (2/12)	Gobbet 3	–Crito
[6.] Socrates' Death (2/19)	Research Question	–'Phaedo', 57a–84b –“Socrate', 2nd half (in class)'
[7.] Plato (2/26)	Gobbet 4	–Glaucón's Challenge, 'Republic', Book 2, 357a–369a –Justice in the City, 'Republic', Book 2, 369a–377d; Book 4, 427d–434d
Spring Break (3/5)		–Greece, Utah
[8.] Plato (3/12)	No assign.	–Justice in the Soul, 'Republic', Book 4, 434d–445e –Philosopher Kings, 'Republic', Book 7, 514a–521b
[9.] Plato (3/19)	Gobbet 5	–Republic: three waves

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| [10.] Aristotle Ethics (3/26) | Annotated
Bibliography | –‘Nicomachean Ethics’, Book 1, Book 2.1-6,
Book 3.1-5 |
| [11.] Aristotle, Physics (4/2) | Gobbet 6 | –‘Physics’, Bk1 and 2, Parts of Animals |
| [12.] Aristotle, De Anima (4/9) | Gobbet 7 | –‘De Anima’, Book 2, Ch.1–6, 11–12 |
| [13.] Epicurus (4/16) | Research
Paper Draft | –**“Extant Letters”, pp.5–31 |
| [14.] The Stoics (4/23) | Gobbet 8 | –‘Lives of the Stoics’, pp.103–124
–‘Ethics’, pp.190–203 |
| [15.] Presentations (4/30)
(4/30/18) | | |
| [16.] No classes (5/7)
(5/7/18) | | |
| [17.] Final Project Due (5/15) | Research
Paper-Final
Draft
10:30am | |