

PHIL 234/HIST 205 (2611/2810), 3 credits, Fall 2023, T & R 11:20am–12:35pm, K114

<http://scottoconnor.org/ancient>

Ancient Philosophy & History

Dr. Scott O'Connor

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

9/1/2023–12/21/2023

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

This course introduces students to the political, social, and cultural developments of Ancient Greece by examining the work of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the Pre-Socratics. By connecting historical events with the development of philosophy, students will learn how philosophy shaped the trajectory of Greek civilization. Topics include the Athenian democracy, the Peloponnesian War, the rise of Macedon, and the Hellenistic period, all contextualized within philosophical debates about morality, justice, happiness, and the nature of reality. No prior knowledge of philosophy or ancient history is required.

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 select periods in the the History of Ancient Greece. .

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

- 'Ancient Greece: A Political, Social, and Cultural History', ed. Pomeroy, Burnstein, Donlan, many of the additional readings will be provided from this work.
- '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). All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. Extra 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.
- *Short take home assignment* submitted through Blackboard. No penalty if submitted up to two weeks late. Grade will be increased by 5 percent if submitted on time. A random group of students, in addition to any suspected of using ChatGPT and

similar tools, will be administered a mandatory oral exam on their submission to check authenticity.

- *Mid-term exam* completed in-class. This will include short answers and longer essays. Students who download respondus lockdown browser may complete the exam in class on a laptop or tablet.
- *Plato essay* submitted through Blackboard. No penalty if submitted up to two weeks late. Grade will be increased by 5 percent if submitted on time. A random group of students, in addition to any suspected of using ChatGPT and similar tools, will be administered a mandatory oral exam on their submission to check authenticity.
- *Final examination.* This will include short answers and longer essays. Students who download respondus lockdown browser may complete the exam in class on a laptop or tablet.
- *Course evaluations* completed online. 3 points extra credit for successful completion.
- *Grade Distribution:* Short assignment–20 points; mid-term–25 points; Plato essay–25 points; final exam–30 points.
- *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).
- *AI Tools:* The use of ChatGPT and similar AI tools to complete your work is a violation of NJCU's academic integrity policy. Students suspected of using ChatGPT for a particular assignment will be required to take an oral exam on that assignment to demonstrate authenticity.

- *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:* Details will be announced for particular assignments.
- *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.
- *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 textbook. See above for abbreviations. Some references are given by Stephanus numbers.

See <http://www.columbia.edu/itc/lithum/wong/stephanus.html> for an explanation. Readings marked with an * can be found on the course website. All reading must be completed by the first day of the week.

Changes to the syllabus will be announced through Blackboard and via your NJCU email address.

Table 1: Course Schedule

Topic	Reading
[1.] Introduction (9/4) The Homeric World	'The Dark Age of Greece and the Eight-Century Renaissance'*
[2.] The Greek Miracle (9/11)	'Archaic Greece'* 'The Milesians', 'Parmenides of Elea', 'Empedocles' pp.33-34 (in RAGP)
[3.] Socrates (9/18) Athens Introduced	'The Growth of Athens'* 'Euthyphro' (in RAGP)
[4.] Socrates's Trial (9/25) Athenian Institutions Assignment on weeks 1-2 (Tues)	'Pericles and the Growth of Athenian Democracy'* 'Apology' (in RAGP)
[5.] Athenian Society (10/2)	'Greece on the Eve of the Peloponnesian War'* 'Meno' (in RAGP)
[6.] Socrates and Athens (10/9)	'The Peloponnesian War' 'Crito' (in RAGP)
[7.] Postwar Greece (10/16) Mid-term (Thur)	'The Crisis of the Polis and the Age of Shifting Hegemonies'*
[8.] Justice (10/23)	'Republic', Bk 2, 357a-377d (in RAGP) 'Republic', Bk 4 (in RAGP)
[9.] Philosopher Rulers (10/30)	'Republic', Bk 5, from 471c (in RAGP) 'Republic', Bk 6, from 502c (in RAGP) 'Republic', Bk 7, up to 521c (in RAGP)
[10.] Tyrants (11/6)	'Phillip II and the Rise of Macedon'* 'Republic', Bk 8 & 9 (in RAGP)

[11.] Aristotle (11/13) The Four Causes	'Physics', Bk 1.5-8 (in RAGP) 'Physics', Bk 2 (in RAGP)
[12.] Aristotle on Mind (11/20) Assignment on weeks 7—10 (Tues) No class on Thur	'De Animal', Bk 1 & 2 (in RAGP)
[13.] Aristotle's Ethics (11/27) The Function Argument	'Nicomachean Ethics', Bk 1 & 2 (in RAGP)
[14.] Hellenism (12/4) Alexander and Aristotle	'Alexander the Great'*
[15.] Continued (12/11) No class on Tues	'Alexander's Successors and the Cosmopolis'*
[16.] Conclusion (12/18) Finals (12/21)	11:00am-11:00pm