



**Beijing Jiaotong University**

**2021 Summer Session**

**PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy**

**(session 2)**

**Course Outline**

**Term: June 14- July 09, 2021**

**Class Hours: 12:00-13:50 (Monday through Friday)**

**Code:PHIL 101**

**Instructor:Dr. Margaret E. Stiffler**

**Home Institution:North Carolina State University**

**Office Hours: By Appointment**

**Email:stiffler@ncsu.edu**

**Credit: 4**

**Class Hours:**

This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

**Course Description:**

This course will examine the foundations of Western civilization by surveying the philosophies of the ancient Greek thinkers. In Part I of the course, we will begin by examining the crucial transition from Mythos to Logos that took place with the early Milesian philosophers' departure from the earlier worldview found in the poems of Homer and Hesiod, the oldest surviving pieces of literature in the Western world. We will then examine the rest of the development of the Pre-Socratic thinkers from such thinkers as Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Parmenides, the Pluralists and the Atomists. We will conclude this part of the course with an examination of the conflict between



Socrates and the Sophists in fifth-century Athens which had such a decisive impact on the development of Western philosophy. In Part II of the course, we will examine the philosophies of Socrates and Plato. We will begin by furthering examining the figure of Socrates and the problem of discerning his thought as distinct from Plato's portrayal of it. We will then carefully examine a few of the key dialogues of Plato, in order to come to some understanding of Plato's philosophy, his Theory of Ideas, belief in the immortality of the soul, the theory of knowledge as recollection, his concern with virtue and justice, and the problematic relationship between art and truth. We will then turn in Part III to an examination of the philosophy of Aristotle in order to come to some understanding of how his thought both carried on and departed from that of his teacher Plato, and how it left such a lasting impression upon the development of Western civilization.

### **Course Objectives:**

The primary objective in this course is to gain a historical and critical understanding of a number of the conceptions, questions, and discussions that concerned the ancient Greek philosophers whose thought lay the foundations for Western civilization. We will seek to understand both the differences and similarities between the various ancient Greek conceptions of nature and humanity, as well as the differences and similarities between these ancient Greek conceptions and our own conceptions of the world and ourselves. We will also be concerned, more generally, with the fundamental question "What is philosophy?" or "What does it mean to be a philosopher, a lover of wisdom?" We will thus seek to gain an understanding and appreciation for the importance of philosophical thinking in both one's personal life and in the life of our society. We will also seek to develop the necessary critical faculties to deal with philosophical problems in both written and verbal format. In doing so we will seek to develop the critical thinking skills that enable the development of the "whole person," one better prepared to deal with the challenges faced in both one's personal and professional life.

### **Course Materials and Required Books:**

*Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*, 2. Ed., S. Marc Cohen, and Patricia Curd, & C.D.C. Reeve, Editors. Hackett Publishing Co., 2000.

"CCR" refers to *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*. By Cohen, Curd and Reeve.

*Voices of Ancient Philosophy: An Introductory Reader*, 1. Ed., Julia Annas, Editor. Oxford University Press, 2001.

"VAP" refers to *Voices of Ancient Philosophy: An Introductory Reader*, By Annas.

**Course Requirements and Grades:** Final course grades are based on the following:

**Attendance and Participation:** Class attendance is required and roll will be taken every day. Regular participation is also required. This is worth 20% of your final grade.

**Quizzes:** There will be a weekly quiz based on readings and discussions. Quizzes will be administered at various times without necessarily being scheduled for a certain class meeting. Quizzes are worth 20% of the total grade.

**Midterm:** A short answer and/or multiple-choice examination will be given approximately half way through the course. The test will cover all readings, lectures, and discussion up to the date of the test. It is worth 20% of the total grade.

**Reflection Paper:** Students will be assigned a 2-page reflection paper based on the viewing of documentary that covers a philosophical topic. Reflection papers are due at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the term. Students may present their papers for extra credit. Reflections Papers are worth 20%.

**Final examination:** The final examination may include short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions. The test will cover all readings, lectures, and discussion up to the date of the test, that is, it is cumulative. Administered the last day of class, the final exam is worth 20% of the final grade.

#### **Course Policies:**

Attendance is required and will be monitored and roll will be taken daily.

Students are expected to bring a device to access a digital copy of the textbook to all class meetings. Students are required to participate in a consistent manner, being respectful of classmate's opinions and contributions. Check email frequently; additional readings and perhaps announcements will be distributed through email. Please use email to tell me of an illness or to set up a time to meet.

**Course Schedule:** Be prepared for changes in the schedule, depending on how we move through topics/chapters. Changes will be announced in class or, if necessary, by email.

**Week 1:** Introduction. Read: Plato, Cave Allegory, VAP 177-79, Periods and Schools (VAP, xix-xxiii); the Poets as Background to Philosophy, Herodotus, Three Types of Regime, VAP 427-29 (also rec.: VAP 430-33, and VAP, 373-75. From Mythos to Logos: The Origins of Philosophy and Science CCR (1-14), Change & Pluralism) CCR (24-34), The Quest for Truth and Being, The Power of Logic CCR (35-41; 59-63; 76- 79), The Cosmic Balance CCR (42-58), The Euthyphro Socratic Dialogue, The Apology, The Secret to Socrates' Wisdom CCR (89-111), CCR (112-120), The Apology Socrates' Defense of Philosophy, Why the Unexamined Life is Not Worth Living CCR (120-130). **Weekly quiz based on readings.**

**Week 2:** Callicles and Glaucon, VAP, 377-79; 383-87, Socrates' Defense of Obedience to Athenian Laws, VAP 379-83, Reason and Emotion (VAP Part 2), Plato, VAP 71-82, 83-4, Aristotle on Emotion in general and Anger in particular, VAP 84-89; Aristotle on Virtue and Anger, VAP 91-94, Stoics on Virtue, Emotion, and Anger, VAP 91-97, Euripides' Medea (excerpt), VAP 110-14; and Galen against Stoics, VAP 116-18, The Good Life (VAP Part 5), Herodotus, VAP 299-301, Aristotle, VAP 297-98, Democritus, 304-305; Polus, VAP 305-9, 318-19, Stoics, VAP 328-38, and Epicurus, VAP 338-51, The Meno What is Virtue? Can Virtue be Taught? CCR (191-200), The Meno The Theory of Recollection, The Phaedo Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul: The Theory of Recollection CCR (201-216), CCR (217-240), The Phaedo, The Theory of Ideas the Republic: CCR (263-317), The Sun Analogy, The Myth of the Cave, CCR (409-460),

Plato on the Human Good, CCR (436-460), Love and Beauty CCR (252-262). **Weekly quiz based on readings.**

### **Mid-Term Exam**

**Week 3:** Aristotle's positive view, VAP 320-323; 325 (ch. 9)-328, Political Philosophy from Plato Through Cicero (Again VAP, Part 6), Plato lecture, Aristotle, VAP 387-93, Epicurean Contractualism, VAP 393-96, Cicero on Natural Law, VAP 397-404, Knowledge and Reality (VAP part 3), Physics, The Four Causes, CCR (634-651; 657-58), What is first philosophy? CCR (690-703), Substance, Matter, Form CCR (728-740). **Weekly quiz based on readings.**

### **Reflection Papers Due**

**Week 4:** Plato's Classical View, The Forms, the Good, the Divided Line, and the Cave: VAP 166-180, Epicurean philosophy of nature, Stoic philosophy of nature, Neo-Platonism, VAP 360-69, Stoics and Epicureans on Fate and Freedom: VAP 16-22 and 29-34, The Case for Plato's Forms: VAP 234-39; 241-43; 245-46, Aristotle on Third Man (a critique of Plato), VAP 258- 83, The Cynical Response, 254, The Stoic view of Plato's Forms, 254-55, Epicureans Against Teleology, VAP 278-80 and Augustine on Time, VAP 280-94, Aristotle's Psychology CCR (741-757), Aristotle's Ethics, Happiness & Human Good CCR (764-777), The Nature of Moral Virtue CCR (777-7784), Justice & Happiness CCR (795-799; 813- 823), Aristotle's Politics CCR (824-831; 845-854). **Weekly quiz based on readings.**

### **Review and Final Examination**

**University Academic Integrity Policy:** The University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another. Scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work. Within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of F for the entire course. When completing an assignment for this course, students are expected to do original work for the assignment and to not reuse work they may have done in previous courses or other settings unless the instructor grants specific prior approval. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of aid (whether written, oral or otherwise) in order for a student to receive undeserved credit on class work, homework, tests or any other assignment that is his or her own responsibility. Plagiarism violates the central core of educational philosophy. It involves stealing another person's work and claiming it as one's own. It occurs whenever one directly copies another person's intellectual effort and integrates it into his/her class work without giving proper credit to the author. Paraphrasing is defined as "a restatement of a text or passage giving the meaning in another form" (Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1996).



When one paraphrases but intentionally omits authorship of the work, this, too, is a serious violation of academic honesty. All students have an individual responsibility to understand what cheating, plagiarism, and paraphrasing are. The student must also be aware that the consequences for cheating and plagiarism or for paraphrasing without proper attribution are severe. Whenever you have doubt about what constitutes cheating plagiarism, contact your instructor.

**Grading:**

A : 94 - 100      A- : 90 – 93

B : 83 - 89      B- : 80 – 82

C : 73 - 79      C- : 70 – 72

D : 63 - 69      D- : 60 – 62

F : Fail