



## **Beijing Jiaotong University**

### **2022 Summer Session**

## **PHIL101 Introduction to Philosophy**

### **Course Outline**

**Course Code: PHIL 101**

**Instructor: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Email: TBA**

**Credit: 4**

#### **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.

**Grading Scale**

A+:4.3——95-100

A :4.0——87-94

A-:3.7——82-86

B+:3.3——78-81



B :3.0——75-77

B -:2.7——71-74

C+:2.3——68-70

C :2.0——65-67

C -:1.7——61-64

D :1.0——55-60

E :0.0——49-54

X :0.0——0

### **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**