

PHL 3313/3813: History of Ancient Philosophy  
Fall 2016  
T,Th 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM  
Kaufman Hall 0138

Instructor: Jerry Green, PhD  
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Office: Dale Tower 617  
Hours: T,Th 10 AM-12 PM

## **Course Description**

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This course will be an in-depth survey of the philosophy of the ancient Greek-speaking world, which took place across the Mediterranean world from the seventh century BCE to well into the fourth century CE. There were a large number of schools of thought in the ancient world in constant dialogue with one another, and our course will follow suit by focusing on the intellectual context in which the views we will discuss developed and evolved.

We will divide the course into three main areas: Epistemology, Physics & Metaphysics, and Ethics. In each section we will examine several approaches to certain questions, namely:

- What sort of knowledge, if any, are humans capable of, and what is the source of that knowledge?
- What is the basic make-up of the material world, and is there anything beyond it?
- What is ultimately valuable, and how do we lead a worthwhile, fulfilling life?

Our primary focus will be exegetical, i.e. to interpret our texts in the most plausible, most charitable way we can. We will try to understand as best we can why each author would approach the topic as they. This will involve, among other things, observing how one author develops their theory in response to what others have done.

## **Course Materials**

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There are no required books for this course. Instead, I've excerpted passages from a number of sources and posted them on Canvas. You should print this material so you can bring it to class, not to mention read it more easily, take notes on it, etc.

However, if you wish to own physical copies of our texts, we will be using the Hackett translations almost exclusively, which have the advantage of being inexpensive and often have a large number of used copies. I've put together a [list on Amazon](#) that covers most of what we'll read, if you are so inclined.

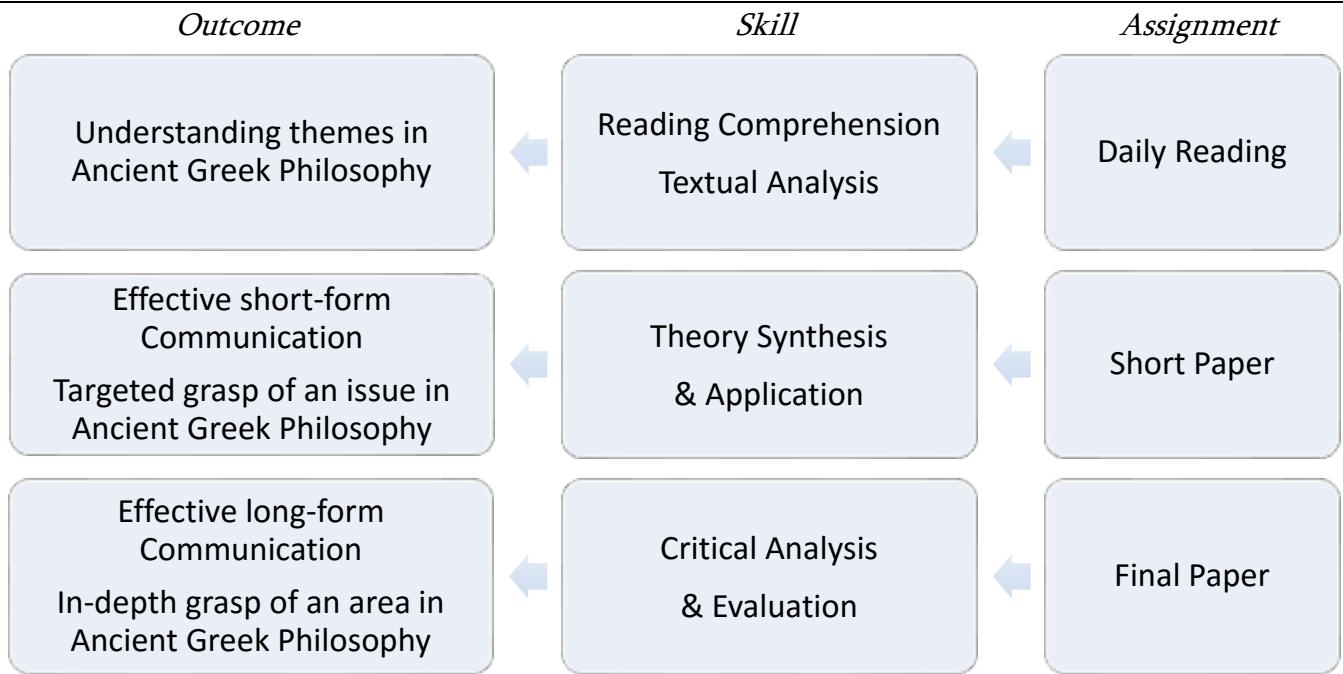
FYI, because we'll only be reading English translations, we need to have a single text that we can all refer to. This means that translations other than the ones I provide shouldn't be used in the class. But do feel free to check with me if you already have a copy of a particular text.

In addition the required primary material, I will often provide some influential secondary literary, mostly from academic journals, which discuss our primary texts. These will not be required, but you will find them helpful if you're confused by the primary text, and it shows how professional scholars of ancient philosophy approach the material.

## ***Other Resources***

[Guide for Reading Philosophy](#) (Jim Pryor, NYU)    [Guide for Writing Philosophy](#) (Jim Pryor, NYU)  
[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (various)    [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (various)

## Learning Outcomes



## Assignments

### Reading

I've done my best to keep the readings short and targeted: the maximum reading for a single class is 19 pages, and the average is about 10 pages. On the other hand, this material can be incredibly difficult, so you absolutely must read things multiple times to begin to understand it. I've tried to excerpt only the most relevant passages, but I encourage you to read more broadly if you can.

### Short Papers

You'll be asked to write three short papers (3-5 pp.) throughout the course, one on each of our three topics. You may write about any of the material we've covered. Your aim will be to (i) summarize your chosen view, and (ii) make a critical observation about the material. For example, you can show how the view avoids a problem present in a rival view, or presents a problem to a rival view, or even shows how to make progress in contemporary philosophy. You will be evaluated primarily on (a) clarity and concision in exposition and (b) philosophical acumen. I'll provide a handout with a rubric and more details closer to the first due-date. [Note: if you are enrolled in Writing Workshop, you'll use your first Short Paper as the basis for work in that class.]

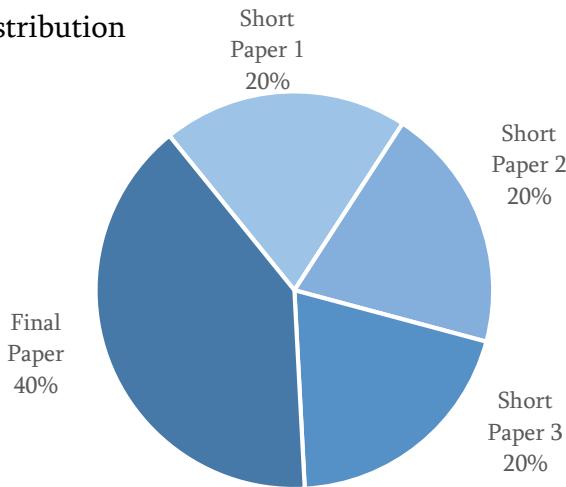
### Final Paper

You'll also write a longer final paper (3000 words, c. 10-12 pp). The work will be similar to the Short Papers, but on a broader scale, using more resources and making a larger point. I'll also provide a rubric and handout for this assignment later in the term, and we'll spend the last class meetings in a writing workshop to help prepare for the paper.

## Grades

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Grade Distribution



Grade Scale:

100.0-90.0	= A
89.9-80.0	= B
79.9-70.0	= C
69.9-60.0	= D
59.9 – 0.0	= F

**Short Papers:** Each short paper will be worth 20 pts = 20% of your total grade.

**Final Paper:** Your final paper will be worth 40 pts = 40% of your total grade.

**Extra Credit:** If you get less than an 80% on a short paper that was turned in on time, you can revise and resubmit it to earn up to an 80%. To do this, you will also have to write a report showing how you fixed the issues in the original draft (I'll give you a handout to show how to do this).

**Rounding:** The letter grade cut off for, e.g. an A- is 90.0, not 89.5 or 89.9. But I may choose to round up in exceptional cases, if (i) I feel you've done better or worked harder than your score suggests, and (ii) your grade is not due to excessive missing assignments. This is a courtesy, not an entitlement.

### Late Work

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You will submit all of your papers on Canvas by 11:59:59 PM on the due date. There is a 2 pt. penalty for each day it is turned in after the due date. The final paper will be due on Dec 16; there is no exam. Because final grades are due on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, any paper turned in later than the 19<sup>th</sup> will receive no credit.

### Tech Policy

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Computers, tablets, e-readers, etc., will not be allowed during class time. I know it sounds lame, but computers in class do [much more harm than good](#).

Three main reasons for this:

- 1) You might think you can multi-task well. [You are incorrect](#). Even if you were miraculously among the 2% of good multi-taskers, you would still distract those around you.
- 2) Electronic texts are much [less effective](#) than paper for the kind of reading we'll be doing.
- 3) [It is well-documented that taking](#) notes by hand is much more effective than typing. If you want a digital version of your notes, scan them or, better, type them out after class.

So, unless you have an accommodation from DRC (see below), you may not use electronic devices in class. Instead, print out your texts and bring hard copies to class.

## **Academic Integrity**

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It is expected that any work you do in this course is the result of your academic efforts. University policies on academic dishonesty can be found [here](#). You are expected to be familiar with these policies; ignorance is not an excuse. In particular, you are required to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Serious failures to maintain academic integrity in this course will result in the maximum possible penalty. At the very least, you will receive no credit for the assignment and be referred to Student Judicial Services for further review. Depending on the severity on the infraction, you could receive an F for the course, or be suspended or expelled from OU. Don't risk it.

Tl;dr: *Don't Cheat!* Ask for help instead.

## **Reasonably Accommodation Policy**

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Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html> Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

If you need to make special accommodations in this course, let me know **immediately**. And do not let shyness or embarrassment or pride stop you from getting the services you deserve: I've seen too many students allow their grades to suffer because they didn't speak up when they should have. Your request will remain anonymous.

## **Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement**

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For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, the University offers a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405/325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu). Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU Advocates at 405/615-0013 (phones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to: Bobby J. Mason, University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at 405/325-3546 or [bjm@ou.edu](mailto:bjm@ou.edu). For more information, visit <http://www.ou.edu/eoo.html>.

## **Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues**

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Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see [here](#) for answers to commonly asked questions.

## **Religious Observance**

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It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty. [\[See Faculty Handbook 3.15.2\]](#). If you have a religious holiday during the Fall semester, let me know **immediately** so we can schedule around it.

*\*\* If you take this course, you thereby agree to follow all course policies outlined here. \*\**

**Schedule<sup>1</sup>**

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Aug 23	Syllabus	
25	Introductions	Sedley, D. (2003) "Introduction" (from CC to Greek & Roman Phil.)
		<b>EPISTEMOLOGY</b>
30	Skepticism	Xenophanes, <i>Fragments</i> ; Anonymous, <i>Dissoi Logoi</i> IV-V
Sept 01		Sextus Empiricus, <i>Outlines</i> IV-XIII, XV
06	Empiricism	Protagoras, <i>Fragments</i> ; Pyrrho <i>Fragments</i>
08		Hippocrates, <i>Peri Technes</i> , <i>Ancient Medicine</i> I-III, IX, XIII-XV, XX
13	Idealism	Plato, <i>Cratylus</i> 438d-440a, <i>Phaedo</i> 73a-76e
15		Plato, <i>Republic</i> 475d-480a, 523a-534b
20	Rationalism	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> A.1-2, <i>Nich. Eth.</i> VI.3,6, <i>Post. An.</i> A.1-3, 30-31
22		Aristotle, <i>Post. An.</i> A.8, 33, B.19, <i>De Anima</i> II.12, III.8
		<b>PHYSICS &amp; METAPHYSICS</b>
27	Instability	Thales, Anaxagoras, Anaximenes: <i>Fragments</i>
	<b>SHORT PAPER 1 DUE</b>	
29		Heraclitus, <i>Fragments</i>
Oct 04	Stability	Empedocles, <i>Fragments</i>
06		Parmenides, <i>Fragments</i>
11	Atomism	Democritus/Lucretius, <i>Fragments</i>
13	Platonism	Plato, <i>Republic</i> 507a-517c, 595a-98d
18		<i>Timaeus</i> 31b-36d, 47e-57d
20	Hylomorphism	<i>Generation &amp; Corruption</i> 31b-36d, 47e-57d
25		<i>Metaphysics</i> Θ.1-2, 5-9
27		Metaph. Λ
		<b>ETHICS</b>
Nov 01	Hedonism	Cyrenaics, <i>Fragments</i>
	<b>SHORT PAPER 2 DUE</b>	
03		Epicurus, <i>Letter to Meoeceus</i> , <i>Maxims</i>
08	Eudaimonism	<i>Republic</i> 425b-448e
10		<i>Philebus</i> 20b-22d, 59c-67a
15	Virtue & Value	Aristotle, <i>Eudemian Ethics</i> I, VIII.3, <i>Politics</i> VII.1,3
17		Epictetus, <i>Enchiridion</i>
22	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	<i>No Class</i>
	<b>SHORT PAPER 3 DUE</b>	
24	"	"
29	Writing Workshop	Research [Reading for this week TBA]
Dec 01		Prewriting, etc.
06		Drafting
08		Revising
16	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE</b>	

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<sup>1</sup> If you are enrolled in 3813 and are taking the Writing Workshop for philosophy majors, your due dates will change a little to fit with your work in that class. We'll talk about this once we get closer to the due dates.