History of Philosophy:
Ancient Philosophy

Philosophy 364

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Overview: This is a survey course in early Greek philosophy. The first half will focus on ancient theories of change, and the second half will focus on ancient theories of well-being. In exploring these topics we will discuss many early thinkers, including Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno, Democritus, Plato, and Aristotle.

Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to identify the key figures in ancient Greek philosophy, and to present, explain, and evaluate some of their central views and arguments. You will also see improvements in your ability to think critically and to write analytically.

Textbook: The required textbook for this course is Early Greek Philosophy (2nd ed.), edited by Jonathan Barnes. This should be available in the school bookstore. If you would like to do some additional reading from a secondary source, I recommend Ancient Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction (2nd ed.), by Christopher Shields. This book is not available at the bookstore, but the e-book version is available through the library. Finally, there are also some required readings available on the course website. Some of these readings are shortened versions of Plato’s dialogues. If you would like to read the full versions, I have placed a complete collection of Plato’s dialogues on reserve at the reserved desk in the library.

Requirements: You are expected to arrive on time for class, having done the assigned reading in advance. You are also required to complete a midterm paper (40 points), a final paper (40 points), and five homework assignments (4 points each). In keeping with the course outcomes, all of these assignments will require you to do some writing, and all of them will require you to work out your own views on some topic or other. Details on the papers will be posted on the course website at least two weeks before they are due. Homework assignments will be passed out in class
and will not be announced in advance. There will be approximately eight assignments throughout the quarter, but I will only count your five highest scores. Course grades are determined according to the following scale: 100-93=A, 92-90=A-, 89-87=B+, 86-83=B, 82-80=B-, 79-77=C+, 76-73=C, 72-70=C-, 69-67=D+, 66-63=D, 62-60=D-, 59-0=F.

Extensions: Requests for extensions will be handled on an individual basis.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty at Western Washington University is a serious infraction dealt with severely. It is your responsibility to understand the nature and possible consequences of academic dishonesty. For more information on academic dishonesty, see appendix D of the university catalog:
http://catalog.wwu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=2373

ADA Accommodations: At Western Washington University, we are committed to providing a campus community, workplace and academic environment that is fully accessible to people of all abilities. Under federal and state law, no qualified person will be denied access to, participation in, or the benefits of a University program or activity on the basis of their disability. For more information on accommodations, see the DSR webpage:
http://www.wwu.edu/disability/

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Western Washington University students enjoy the same basic rights, privileges, and freedoms granted to all members of society. At the same time, acceptance of admission to the university carries with it an obligation to fulfill certain responsibilities and expectations as a member of the Western Washington University community. For more details, see Western’s Student Rights and Responsibilities Code:
http://www.wwu.edu/dos/conduct/the_code.shtml

Ethical Computing: Students are also responsible for knowing and adhering to WWU’s standards for ethical computing. For more information, see Western’s Policy for Responsible Computing:
http://west.wwu.edu/atus/helpdesk/acceptableusepolicy.shtml
Also, see the User Agreement for WWU Network and Computer Resources:
http://west.wwu.edu/atus/helpdesk/useragreement.shtml
**Student Services:** Western encourages students to seek assistance and support at the onset of an illness, difficulty, or crisis.

- In the case of a medical concern or question, contact the Health Center: 650-3400 or [http://www.wwu.edu/chw/student_health/](http://www.wwu.edu/chw/student_health/)
- In the case of an emotional or psychological concern or question, contact the Counseling Center: 650-3400 or [http://www.wwu.edu/counseling/](http://www.wwu.edu/counseling/)
- In the case of a health and safety concern, contact the University Police: 650-3555 or [http://www.wwu.edu/ps/police/](http://www.wwu.edu/ps/police/)
- In the case of a family emergency or personal crisis, contact the Dean of Students: 650-3450 or [http://wp.wwu.edu/students/](http://wp.wwu.edu/students/)

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**Changes:** This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and by e-mail. Students will be held responsible for any changes.

**Schedule:**

- **03.28** Introduction to Ancient Philosophy
- **03.30** Heraclitus on Change 📘 Introduction, Synopsis, Note to Readers, & Chapter 8 (Suggested: Shields, 1.1-1.3)
- **04.04** Parmenides on Change 📘 Chapter 9 (Suggested: Shields, 1.4)
- **04.06** Melissus on Change 📘 Chapter 10
- **04.11** Zeno on Change 📘 Chapters 11
- **04.13** The Atomists on Change 📘 Chapters 20 & 21 (Suggested: Shields, 1.5-1.7)
- **04.18** Plato on Change 📘 Republic (Suggested: Shields, Chapter 3)
- **04.20** Plato on Change 📘 Phaedo
04.25  Aristotle on Change Physics
04.27  Writing/Review Day

05.02  Introduction to the Good Life  Midterm paper due at the start of class
05.04  The Cyrenaics on The Good Life  Aristippus

05.09  The Epicureans on the Good Life  Epicurus & Letter to Menoeceus (Suggested: Shields, 5.1-5.2)
05.11  The Stoics on the Good Life  The Stoics & On the Ends of Good and Evil (Suggested: Shields, 5.3)

05.16  Aristotle on the Good Life  Nicomachean Ethics, Book I (Suggested: Shields, Chapter 4)
05.18  Aristotle on the Good Life  Nicomachean Ethics, Book II

05.23  Plato on the Good Life  Apology (Suggested: Shields, Chapter 2)
05.25  The Skeptics on the Good Life  Pyrrho & Outlines of Pyrrhonism (Suggested: Shields, 5.4-5.5)

05.30  Writing/Evaluation Day
06.01  Review Day

06.06  Final paper due at 10am