



Philosophy 300

# ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2008



**Instructor:**

Dr. Nils Ch. Rauhut  
EHFA 280  
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**Meeting Times:**

M, W, F 10:30AM – 11:20 AM in EHFA 169.

**Office Hours:**

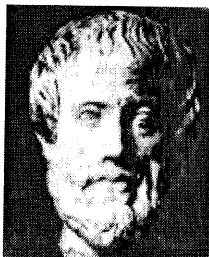
M, W, F 08:30 AM-09:30 AM and M, W, F 01:30PM - 3:00 PM  
or by appointment in EHFA 280.

**Course Material:**

Cohen, Curd, Reeve (eds.): Readings in Ancient Philosophy  
(3<sup>rd</sup> edition) ; (Hackett, 2006).

(Books are available at the University Bookstore).

**Course Objective:**



The main goal of this course is to explore some prominent achievements of Ancient Greek philosophy. We will read and discuss the Pre-Socratics, Plato, and Aristotle not because we want to acquaint ourselves with outdated theories, but rather because we want to find out whether these philosophers have something to say about questions we are asking today. Consequently, the class is centered around philosophical questions. We will start by asking how philosophy differs from myth and religion and whether it makes sense to describe the Greeks as the founders of philosophy. After that, we will discuss the Pre-Socratics and focus especially on the metaphysical question of change. A brief introduction to the Sophists and the historical Socrates will serve as a bridge to ethical problem,

whereas our discussion of Aristotle will offer us the opportunity to return to metaphysical questions.



At the end of semester students should be able to:

- Know the major figures in ancient philosophy and the main elements of their theories.
- Summarize and evaluate the philosophical arguments we discussed in class.
- Read and interpret a classical text carefully.
- Listen to and participate in the class discussion.

### **Grading:**

The final grade in this class will be determined as follows:

Several Reading Quizzes:	15%
Three Writing Assignments	45%
Mid-Term	20%
Final	20%



The percentiles of the six categories (quizzes, writing assignments,...etc) correspond to points. One paper is worth fifteen points, the Final is worth twenty points etc... . The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

91-100 points = A	81-90 points = B
71-80 points = C	61-70 points = D
Below 61	= F

### **Quizzes:**

Throughout the semester students will have to take short reading quizzes. The questions on these quizzes will be very straightforward and will deal with the readings that were due on this day. It will be impossible to do well on these quizzes if you have not done the assigned readings for the previous week. Keep in mind that **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WILL BE OFFERED**. If you miss a quiz you will simple lose the points.

### **Writing Assignments:**

One central goal of this class is to learn how to write short philosophical essays. You will have to write three essays in this class. Each essay is worth fifteen percent of your grade. You will receive more detailed instructions for the papers during the semester.

## Reading Schedule for Ancient Philosophy Fall 2008

<b>Monday 18</b>	<b>Wednesday 20</b>	<b>Friday 22</b>
		Historical Overview/
<b>Monday 25</b>	<b>Wednesday 27</b>	<b>Friday 29</b>
Thales and the Beginning of Greek Nature Philosophy, Anaximander's Reaction, Anaxemenes	Fire, Logos, and Eternal Change The philosophy of Heraclitus	Being and Change: Are they compatible? Parmenides' Challenge
<b>Monday 01</b>	<b>Wednesday 03</b>	<b>Friday 05</b>
<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>	Zeno's Defense of Parmenides' Philosophy Zeno's Paradoxes	<b>QUIZ #1</b>
<b>Monday 08</b>	<b>Wednesday 10</b>	<b>Friday 12</b>
The Atomists come to the Rescue: Leucippus and Democritus Introduction to the Sophists	Socrates enters the Stage: A defense of the philosophical life Plato: <i>Apology</i>	Plato : <i>Apology</i> Part II
<b>Monday 15</b>	<b>Wednesday 17</b>	<b>Friday 19</b>
Socrates and the State: Plato: <i>Crito</i>	Socrates and the Religion: Plato: <i>EUTHYPHRO</i>	<b>QUIZ #2</b> <b>Writing Assignment #1</b>
<b>Monday 22</b>	<b>Wednesday 24</b>	<b>Friday 26</b>
Overview Socratic Ethics Impossibility of Akrasia <b>Writing Assignment #1 is due.</b>	<b>Plato's Symposium</b> Read: <i>Prologue</i> 172 –178; Speeches by Phaedrus 178-180 and Pausanias 180-185	Speeches by Erychimachus 185-188, Aristophanes 189 -193, and Agathon 193- 201
<b>Monday 29</b>	<b>Wednesday 01</b>	<b>Friday 03</b>
Speeches of Socrates and Alcibiades:	Preparation for Midterm	<b>MIDTERM</b>
<b>Monday 06</b>	<b>Wednesday 08</b>	<b>Friday 10</b>
The Call of Injustice Plato: <i>Republic</i> : Book I	The Call of Injustice #2 Plato <i>Republic</i> : Book II	<b>Student Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 13</b>	<b>Wednesday 15</b>	<b>Friday 17</b>
Plato <i>Republic</i> Book II	Censorship <i>Republic</i> Book III Education of the Guardians	Justice as Psychic Harmony Plato: <i>Republic</i> : Book IV Writing Assignment #2
<b>Monday 20</b>	<b>Wednesday 22</b>	<b>Friday 24</b>
The Three Waves Plato <i>Republic</i> : Book V	The Form of the Good and the Line Plato <i>Republic</i> Book VI	The Form of the Good and the Cave Plato <i>Republic</i> Book VII
<b>Monday 27</b>	<b>Wednesday 29</b>	<b>Friday 31</b>
Plato <i>Republic</i> Book VII	Decline of the Soul Plato <i>Republic</i> book VIII	Plato's Arguments for the Best Life <i>Plato Republic IX</i> <b>Writing Assignment #3</b>
<b>Monday 03</b>	<b>Wednesday 05</b>	<b>Friday 07</b>
Plato <i>Republic</i> Book X <b>Writing Assignment #3 Due</b>	Introduction to Aristotle	Aristotle's World View The Unmoved Mover
<b>Monday 10</b>	<b>Wednesday 12</b>	<b>Friday 14</b>
Substances and Forms	Aristotle's Response to Plato's <i>Metaphysics</i> Aristotle <i>Categories</i>	Aristotle's Philosophy of Science Aristotle: <i>Posterior Analytics</i>
<b>Monday 17</b>	<b>Wednesday 19</b>	<b>Friday 21</b>
Aristotle's Understanding of Nature The Four Causes Aristotle <i>Physics</i>	Physics Continued Aristotle's Solution to the Problem of Change	Aristotle's Theory of the Soul <b>Aristotle's <i>De Anima</i></b>
<b>Monday 24</b>	<b>Wednesday 26</b>	<b>Friday 28</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>Monday 02</b>	<b>Wednesday 04</b>	<b>Friday 06</b>
What happens after Aristotle?	Class Evaluation, Possible Questions for the Final,	<b>Preparation for FINAL</b> The Final Examination is on Wednesday December 10 at 11 AM.