

PHILOSOPHY 201
Ancient Greek Philosophy
Professor – Dr. Barry F. Vaughan
Spring 2023, BP 2N MCC (Main Campus)
Section: 33519

Required Texts:

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy, Cohen, Curd, and Reeve, Hackett Publishing. ISBN 978-1-60384-462-8

A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society and Culture, Pomeroy, Burstein, Donlan, and Roberts, Oxford Publishing, 3rd ed. ISBN 978-0-19-998155-7

Course Goals:

This course is designed as an historical survey of the intellectual history of the Greco-Roman world focusing on the philosophical tradition in its social/political/historical context (from 600 BCE - 180 CE). No previous exposure to Ancient literature is required, although any previous experience with Ancient History, Philosophy, Literature, or Art History would be helpful. Over the course of the semester we will explore the major philosophical movements of the Ancient period from the Presocratics to the Hellenistic philosophers. We will also focus on the historical and cultural development of the Greco-Roman tradition and emphasize the relationship between the development of Western Philosophy, politics, religion, and art.

By the end of the semester students are expected to have a firm grasp of each movement explored as well as the cultural and historical context in which it evolved. Since Philosophy, like all academic disciplines, uses a technical vocabulary, students are also expected to become *philosophically literate* over the course of the semester. At the end of each unit of study students should be able to: 1) define the philosophical terms associated with that unit, 2) identify individual philosophers, poets, politicians, and public figures and identify their contribution to the development of the Western intellectual/historical tradition, 3) explain the views of the figures we study, 4) contrast the views of the philosophers with one another as well as with the student's own experience, and 5) demonstrate a broad understanding of the cultural and historical context in which the Western philosophical/intellectual tradition arose.

Philosophy deals with controversial adult material including human sexuality, the existence of God, principles of justice, etc. Students must be prepared to engage all material as presented/assigned. Alternate assignments, readings, lectures, etc. will not be provided.

Course Requirements:

Attendance - students are **required to attend class** as scheduled. Absences are excused in the case of illness (standard proof of illness is required) or other College sanctioned activities (see student handbook for details)

Tardiness – I am not particularly offended by tardiness (after all, you are paying for this course). I understand that sometimes factors beyond our control conspire to make us late. If you are late to class, come on in and find a place to sit. However, please be courteous to your classmates and do not make a disturbance if you are late. Finally, please do not allow tardiness to become a habit.

Grades - will be figured on the following basis:

- 1) Four unit Exams each worth 100 points (your lowest overall exam score will be dropped). The composition of the four exams will be discussed in detail in class prior to each exam.
- 2) Ten Quizzes each worth 10 points.

- 3) Extra credit will be available on exams and the pre and post surveys, bonus quizzes, and other bonus material as assigned. There will be *absolutely no* outside-class extra credit or assignments for individual students (so don't bother to ask). Extra credit points **will not** count *against* your final grade.

Grade Tracker: use the grade tracker below to record your grades as we go through the semester.

QUIZZES:

Quiz 1 _____
Quiz 2 _____
Quiz 3 _____
Quiz 4 _____
Quiz 5 _____

Quiz 6 _____
Quiz 7 _____
Quiz 8 _____
Quiz 9 _____
Quiz 10 _____

EXAMS:

Exam 1 _____
Exam 2 _____
Exam 3 _____
Exam 4 _____

Pre-Test _____
Post-Test _____

Grade Scale and Symbols: based on five hundred total points, below is the percentage scale used to determine your final course grade and an explanation of the grade symbols used.

360-400 (90%-100%)	A <i>Excellent</i>
320-359 (80%-89%)	B <i>Above Average</i>
280-319 (70%-79%)	C <i>Average</i>
240-279 (60%-69%)	D <i>Minimal Passing</i>
0-239	F <i>Failure</i>
	Y <i>Withdraw Failing</i>
	W <i>Withdraw Passing</i>
	I <i>Incomplete</i>

Statement on Plagiarism/Academic Misconduct – Due to the proliferation of academic material available on the internet, plagiarism is on the rise in American academic institutions. Plagiarism is the use of two or more consecutive words from someone else's written work without proper citation, or passing off someone else's words as your own. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's work without giving proper citation of the source material. Plagiarism is **theft** of intellectual property and WILL NOT BE TOLLERATED.

Academic misconduct is a more general term for cheating of any variety. Obviously, the assignments you turn in and the examinations you take should reflect YOUR OWN work, and any attempt to circumvent this process is harmful. Therefore, any plagiarized, or otherwise academically inappropriate assignment, will receive an automatic 0 (or F), and the assignment cannot be made up or replaced. If two or more assignments are plagiarized or the product of academic misconduct in the course of a semester, the offending student may receive an automatic F for the course.

Student Responsibilities:

Responsibility for Information - Students are responsible for knowing and understanding all information contained in this syllabus. If you do not understand some portion of this document, please contact the professor for clarification. All student rights and responsibilities are governed through the MCC Student Handbook; students should be aware of all policies contained therein.

Students with Disabilities – It is the policy of Mesa Community College, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to offer reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you are disabled and need accommodation you should contact the MCC Student Disabilities Office (MCC Disabilities Resources and Services Office at 480-461-7447 or email drsfrontdesk@mesacc.edu) before any assignments are due. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Student Disabilities Office with any request for special services. Students experiencing difficulty accessing course materials because of a disability should contact the course instructor so that a solution can be found that provides all students equal access to course materials and technology. The DRS Office now also

handles pregnancy related absences. If you have a need for pregnancy related accommodations, please contact the DRS Office immediately.

Dropping/Withdrawal - It is part of a **student's academic responsibility** to decide whether or not to drop or withdraw from a course once enrolled. If you find this course does not meet your needs or that you need to withdraw for other reasons you must secure a Drop/ Add slip from the Registrar's Office, fill out the appropriate information, and bring it to the professor or the Registrar's Office. If you need to withdraw but are unable to come to campus please contact your professor via telephone or email. I will assume that all students who enroll in the course intend to finish the course and receive a grade. I **will not** automatically withdraw you from this course if you simply stop coming to class!

Recording Lectures – The content of course lectures, including, but not limited to, verbal, printed, “powerpoint” and other electronic communications are the copyrighted property of the professor. Recording class lectures is **prohibited** *without express written consent*. If you wish to record lectures, you must see me during office hours and sign a Proprietary Information Agreement.

Cell Phones – All cell phones romgers should be placed in the “off, “quiet” or “do not disturb” mode. **Do not** send or answer text messages or other online media while in class. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in punitive action.

Instructional Grievance – Students have the right to due-process if they feel they have been treated unfairly by their professor in regard to academic procedures (i.e., grading). Please refer to the process articulated in the Student Handbook § 2.3.5.

Contact Information:

Office Hours – feel free to drop by my office any time if you wish to chat or discuss any material you do not fully understand. During office hours, my doors are always open to you! I am located in the building 43a, or via WebEx Office: <https://maricopa.webex.com/meet/bvaughan>

MW 12:00 – 1:00pm, TTR 9:30 – 10:30, F 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

Phone: Office/voicemail: 480- 461-7620

Email: barry.vaughan@mesacc.edu (the most reliable and fastest way to get in touch with me)

Website: <http://barryfvaughan.org>. On the course website you will find a large amount of useful information including a complete set of course notes, study guides, an electronic library of classic texts in Philosophy, an interactive dictionary, and your syllabus.

Alternation of Syllabus Information:

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified in class of any alteration of schedule, assignment, or grading policy.

Early Alert (CARE REPORT):

Mesa Community College is committed to providing a personal education for each of our students, and the Care Team is a key part of this vision. When parents, faculty, or staff members are concerned about the physical, emotional, academic or personal health of a college student, the Care Team can assess the situation, offer support, and provide referrals to the breadth of resources on-campus. Explore the link: <https://www.mesacc.edu/employees/student-affairs/care-team>

Tentative Reading Schedule

In teaching over the years I have discovered that each class moves at its own pace and that flexibility is an academic virtue. I have, therefore, omitted specific dates for each of the readings and exams below. However, I promise that exams will be announced *at least* one week in advance. Your specific reading assignments will be announced at the end of each class (and remind me if I forget!). Below are the topics for each unit and the assigned readings that should be completed BEFORE you come to that day's class.

UNIT 1: *The Genesis of Philosophy – Muthos vs. Logos*

The World Before Philosophy:

An Overview of Greek Pre-History (3000-750 BCE)	P 1-40
The Art, Architecture, and Culture of the Minoan Period	<i>Online Slideshow</i>
The Dark Age of Greece	P 41-66
<u>Theogony</u> Hesiod (c. 750 BCE)	<i>Online</i>

EXAM 1.1

The Philosophical Revolution:

The Archaic Period of Greece	P 67-98
The Art, Architecture, and Culture of the Archaic Period	<i>Online Slideshow</i>
The Ionian School: (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes)	C 1-17
Ionian School cont. (Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Pythagoras)	C 18-40
The Eleatic School: (Parmenides)	C 40-47
The Pluralist School: (Empedocles, Anaxagoras)	C 52-80
The Materialist School: (Democritus)	C 80-93

EXAM 1.2

UNIT 2: *The Platonic Tradition –*

The Ascendancy of Athens:

The Art, Architecture, and Culture of the Classical Period	<i>Online Slideshow</i>
Rise of the Athenian Empire	P 121-151
The Peloponnesian War	P 218-246
<u>The Clouds</u> Aristophanes (c. 445 - c. 380BCE):	<i>Internet</i>

Socrates and Plato:

<u>Euthyphro</u>	C 127-134
<u>Apology</u>	C 135-152
<u>Phaedo</u>	C 153-178
<u>Republic</u> (Books 6, 7)	C 267-319
	C 515-566

EXAM II

UNIT 3: *The Rational Universe; Philosophy Systematized – Aristotle (384-322 BCE)*

Hellenism and the Macedonian Empire:

The Unification of Greece (Phillip and Alexander)	P 283-325
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Aristotle: The Encyclopedic Approach to Philosophy -

Logic: The <u>Organon</u> - On the Method of Philosophy	C 683-693
<u>Categories</u>	C 694-700
<u>On Interpretation</u>	C 701-708
<u>Posterior Analytics</u>	C 714-731

Science: On Theoretical Knowledge

<u>Physics</u>	C 732-764
<u>Metaphysics</u>	C 796-809, 838-846

EXAM III

UNIT 4: *The Conquest of Reason*

The Hellenization of the World:

The Art, Architecture, and Culture of the Hellenistic Period

P 326-360
Slideshow

Epicurianism:

Internet

Stoicism:

Zeno of Citium (c. 336-265 BCE)

Epictetus (c. 50-130 CE)

Marcus Aurelius (121-180 CE)

Internet

Internet

Skepticism:

Pyrrhonism

Academic Skepticism

EXAM IV

HOW TO SUCCEED IN COLLEGE

“How can I be successful in a college course?” This is perhaps the most important practical question you can ask yourself at this point in your life. Whether you have just finished secondary school, or whether you are returning to education after a lengthy period, it is important for you to recognize that your success in higher education depends *entirely on you*. Higher education is not like secondary school. You are NOT required to attend college, and you are not required to succeed. You are here because you have chosen to be. You will be successful in college if, and only if, you CHOOSE to be. However, desiring to be successful will not guarantee your success. YOU MUST ACT IN YOUR OWN SELF-INTEREST. The following are some helpful suggestions on what you should be doing if you wish to be successful.

1. Read and understand your course syllabus. Your syllabus is a learning contract and it should spell out all the requirements for the course you have enrolled in. All MCC faculty are required to provide you with a syllabus that spells out the learning objectives for the course, the method of assessment for the course (i.e., how you will be graded), and any and all class policies that are required for your successful completion of the course (these are policies that go beyond the standard policies articulated in the Student Hand Book which are common to all MCC courses). It is YOUR responsibility to know and understand the content of your course syllabus.

2. Attend all scheduled class meetings. Your success in a particular class is strongly correlated with your attendance. The more you attend, the more likely you are to succeed.

3. Read all assigned materials. Unlike secondary school, higher education requires students to become independent learners. It is YOUR responsibility to read and understand ALL assigned material whether or not it is discussed in class. Just because something is not discussed in class does not mean it is not important or that you will not be evaluated on that material. You are responsible for completing all the assigned reading in your class.

4. Observe all due-dates. Complete all outside-class assignments and projects *prior to* their due date. The due date of an assignment is the time at which you are required to submit your work for evaluation by your professor. It is NOT the time to turn in a first draft or a cursory reading, or an incomplete project or worksheet.

5. Be prepared for class. It is expected that you will spend two (2) hours outside of class preparing for each one (1) hour you spend in class. Obviously, the amount of time required to prepare for a particular class may vary based on subject matter and your abilities. However, it is the general expectation in higher education that you are adequately prepared for all classes. Thus, if you are enrolled in four three credit-hour courses (a twelve credit-hour load), you should expect to spend a minimum of twenty-four hours *outside* of class, preparing *for* class. Your total weekly time budget should therefore include thirty-six hours per week *dedicated solely to your education*. The degree of your success in college is directly correlated to the time you spend on your education both inside and outside the classroom. Do not take more courses than you your time budget will allow. If you spend more money than you make, you will be in debt. If you attempt to take more classes than you have time for, you will not succeed.

6. ASK QUESTIONS! In college you are expected to share responsibility for your learning. Your professor is supposed to be an expert in the content of their field. They are there to guide you in your learning. But your professor cannot learn for you. If you do not understand something in your reading, ask for it to be explained. If you do not understand something in the lecture, ask for it to be explained. Professors are content experts, not psychics. If you don't ask a question, they will likely assume you understand what is being read or discussed.

7. Take advantage of office hours. Your professor is required to provide academic support hours to support you. If you are having difficulty understanding your reading, if you are having difficulty with assignments, quizzes, exams, papers or projects, go to your professor's office hours and ASK FOR HELP. Your professor cannot help you if you do not ask for assistance.

8. Do not multi-task while studying. It is common for all of us to multi-task in our lives. We have cell phones, Facebook, Twitter, email, iPods, TV and an endless list of other distractions constantly calling upon our attention. These are great tools and you should use them. But, the more things you attempt to do at once, the less accurate you will be at each task. I know you *think* you can multi-task well; but you are wrong! Our brains did not evolve to multi-task and we are becoming aware of the limitations of our cognitive abilities as we invent new and more complex tools. Do not experiment with your time, money, and education. When you study you need to be focused. Follow these rules for success when you study.

Do not interrupt your reading/studying to:
answer the phone, email or text,
check Facebook, Twitter, TicTok, etc.

In fact, you should probably turn your phone off.

Do not have the Television/radio/iPod playing when you are reading/studying. If you *must* have some background sound, use music (at a low volume) that **does NOT have lyrics**. Classical, jazz, even techno can provide background noise that allows your brain to focus on complex tasks like reading and problem solving. *Lyrics are the key*. Your brain is wired to pay attention to language. This priority has evolved over millions of years and it has not changed with the advent of micro-computing (though it is certainly probable that we will continue to evolve and our descendents may have abilities we do not). When there is language in the background, it **WILL** lower your level of concentration and limit your ability to solve problems, read complex material, and perform difficult tasks.

Following these guidelines will not ensure that you will succeed in college, but they will help! Do yourself a favor, take this information to heart and follow these suggestions.

COVENANT ON CLASS DECORUM

The object of this course is for the student to become familiar with academic Philosophy. This goal includes not only theory but also rhetorical practice to be carried out in the classroom. In order to foster an acceptable atmosphere of educational edification the following maxims will be agreed to by **all** participants (*including* the professor):

1. I shall refrain from making personal attacks upon fellow interlocutors; likewise, I will not mistake an attack *upon an argument* I present as a personal attack.
2. I reserve the right to disagree with *any* argument on *any* subject regardless of whether or not it reflects my own, or the majority opinion. In like manner, I will *not assume* that an argument presented by a classmate or the professor necessarily represents their personal opinion.
3. I hereby agree to disagree *agreeably* so as to avoid personal injury or vendettas.
4. I reserve the right to participate in class discussions and arguments, and I shall endeavor to engage ideas and opinions that differ from my own thus enhancing my academic pilgrimage.
5. I hereby agree not to pout about or refrain from engaging arguments which seem weak or problematic. I accept as part of *my* academic responsibility the obligation to speak up whether I agree or disagree.
6. I reserve the right to take all classroom grievances to the person with whom I have the grievance, regardless of whether it is a student *or the professor* (if we cannot work out the problem there is an official grievance process which we can follow – details are in your student handbook).
7. I shall attempt to be open to, and respect all persons in the classroom even when we disagree.
8. I shall, to the best of my ability, respect and incorporate the maxims of this covenant and endeavor to uphold my end of all agreements made herein.

If you do not feel that you can live up to the terms of this agreement, you should drop this course immediately!