Philosophy 101A: History of Ancient Philosophy  
University of Vermont  
Spring 2012  
MWF 3:00 - 3:50, Kalkin 003  

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"For this is an experience which is characteristic of a philosopher, this wondering: this is where philosophy begins and nowhere else."  
Plato, *Theaetetus* 155d  

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**Office:** 70 South Williams room 203  
**Office Hours:** MW 4–5, and by appointment  
**Email:** rharp@uvm.edu  
**Prerequisites:** One philosophy course or instructor permission  
**Course website:** See Blackboard (bb.uvm.edu)  

**Course Description:** In this course we will attempt to understand the thought and distinctive philosophical methods of the major philosophical figures from the beginnings of Western philosophy through the Hellenistic period.  

**Course Goals:** Philosophy 101A is an intermediate-level course in philosophy. I assume that you have some exposure to the nature of philosophical questions, and to the methods used by philosophers to answer those questions. I expect you to refine your understanding of each of these in this course. Moreover, the works of the ancient philosophers that we will read in this course are of seminal importance for the later development of philosophy, and so you are expected to learn about this historical tradition.  

**Readings:** The readings have been selected in an attempt to strike the optimal balance between price, comprehensiveness, and quality of translation. I expect you to read the translations assigned; you are responsible for any discrepancy should you choose to read a different translation of any of the assigned texts. You will be expected to have read the assigned readings before the class in question.
Evaluation: Your grade for this course will be determined on the basis of the following factors. First, quizzes: there will be six quizzes this semester; your top five quiz scores will each count for 5% of your final grade, making quizzes worth 25% of your final grade. I will announce in class when quizzes are available on blackboard; once posted, quizzes must be submitted by the start of the next class.

Second, exams: there will be three examinations. The dates of the exams are listed below; exams are due by 11:59pm on the date listed, either in my mailbox in the philosophy department or in my email inbox (see below). Each exam is an open-book take-home exam. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade, making exams worth 75% of your final grade.

I will not accept either quizzes or exams submitted after the announced deadline without prior arrangement. If you expect to be away from class and unable to complete work (as, for example, a quiz), you must inform me of all such conflicts prior to the time. For example, if you must miss class for a religious holiday, or a competition, or a family emergency, you must tell me of these conflicts ahead of time. (Be warned: I have little patience for emergencies that I learn about immediately after a quiz has been announced!)

Submitting work through email: You may choose to either hand in your quizzes and exams, or submit them via email. Work submitted by email should be final copies of your work—for example, I expect a proper header and for pages to be numbered. I will email you when I receive your work; if time has passed and you have not received confirmation from me, you should email it again.

Attendance: You should show up to class. I dislike taking attendance. (We are all adults here; I expect that you have freely chosen to take this class in part because of your desire to learn the material.)

If you do not show up for class, I expect your grade will suffer in one of the following ways. First, quizzes will be announced in class, and if you skip the class you might not be aware of the quiz. Second, you might not acquire the information and skills required to perform well on the quizzes and on the exam.

Statement on Academic Honesty: I expect that we are all here to learn from one another. To this end, I ask that all students abide by the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities as well as the Code of Academic Integrity. If you have any questions about whether your work violates the Code of Academic Integrity, please ask.

Statement on Academic Support and Disability Accommodations: Academic Support Programs offers several programs to provide academic support to students; their website is www.uvm.edu/aspprogs/. In keeping with University policy, any student
with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact ACCESS, the office of Disability Services on campus. ACCESS works with students to create reasonable and appropriate accommodations via an accommodation letter to their professors as early as possible each semester. Contact ACCESS: A170 Living/Learning Center; 802-656-7753; access@uvm.edu; or www.uvm.edu/access.

Schedule of Assigned Readings
(all page numbers in parentheses and bold refer to Cohen, Curd and Reeve, Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy, 4th edition)

Week 1
Jan 18: Introduction to the course
Jan 20: Mythology and the Milesians (1–17)

Week 2
Jan 23: Pythagoras, Xenophanes and Heraclitus (18–39)
Jan 25: Pythagoras, Xenophanes and Heraclitus continued
Jan 27: Parmenides (40–47)

Week 3
Jan 30: Empedocles and Anaxagoras (52–80)
Feb 1: Empedocles and Anaxagoras continued
Feb 3: Zeno (47–51)

Week 4
Feb 6: The Atomists (80–93)
Feb 8: Plato, Euthyphro (135–152)
Feb 10: Plato, Euthyphro continued

Week 5
Feb 13: Plato, Apology (153–178)
(First examination due)
Feb 15: Plato, Apology continued
Feb 17: Plato, Crito (179–191)

Week 6
Feb 20: [no class]
Feb 22: Plato, Crito continued
Feb 24: Plato, Protagoras 317e–334c, 348c–362a (192–218)
Week 7
Feb 27: Plato, Protagoras continued
Feb 29: Plato, Meno (241–266)
Mar 2: Plato, Meno continued

Week 8
Spring break

Week 9
Mar 12: Plato, Symposium (320–368)
Mar 14: Plato, Symposium continued
Mar 16: Plato, Republic books I, II (369–423)

Week 10
Mar 19: Plato, Republic books IV, V (456–514)
Mar 21: Plato, Republic book VI (515–541)

Week 11
Mar 26: Aristotle, Categories 1–5 (694–700)
(Second examination due)
Mar 28: Aristotle, Posterior Analytics I.1–6, 10, II.8–10, 19 (714–731)
Mar 30: Aristotle, Posterior Analytics continued

Week 12
Apr 2: Aristotle, Physics I.1, 5–9, II (732–757)
Apr 4: Aristotle, Physics I.1, 5–9, II continued
Apr 6: Aristotle, Physics III.1–3, VIII.6 (758–764)

Week 13
Apr 11: Aristotle, Metaphysics I.1–4, 6, 9 (796–809)
Apr 13: Aristotle, De Anima I.1, 4, II.1–6 (847–863)

Week 14
Apr 16: Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics I.1–5, 7–9, 13, II.1–6, III.1–5 (870–901)
Apr 18: Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics continued
Apr 20: Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics continued
Week 15
Apr 25: Epicureanism (readings TBA)
Apr 27: Epicureanism (readings TBA)

Week 16
Apr 30: Stoicism (readings TBA)
May 2: Class wrap-up

May 11: (Third examination due)

Optional Additional/Alternative Readings:

**Presocratics**

**Plato**

**Aristotle**

**Hellenistic Period**