

Philosophy 212/AMNE 236: Greek Philosophy II

Winter Term 2 2023-4
Professor Sylvia Berryman
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MWF 1-2pm, MATH
OH MW 12-1, BUCH E-269
and by appointment

The philosophers of ancient Greece continue to fascinate and inspire us today. This course continues from part one, introducing students to the ideas of Aristotle and the Hellenistic philosophical schools. The puzzles and problems these philosophers raise are not merely of historical interest, but will be approached as real philosophical questions. Are there any objective truths or values? How can we have knowledge? Is there purpose in nature? How should we live in the world?

Texts:

Irwin and Fine, *Aristotle: Selections*

Inwood and Gerson, *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings*

Topics (subject to minor revision)

Readings

Week One, Jan 8/10/12

Aristotle *On Ideas* 80.8-83.33

The Arguments against the Forms

Week Two, Jan 15/17/19

Aristotle *Physics* 2.3-4, 2.7-9

The problem of change: matter, form and privation

Aristotle's Four Kinds of Explanation

Week Three, Jan 22/24/26

Aristotle *De Interpretatione* 9

Is the Future Settled?

Physics 4.9-12

Is Time Real?

First paper due Friday Jan 26th

Week Four, Jan 29/31/Feb 2

Aristotle *Physics* Bk 8

Natural vs. Nonnatural Motion

Metaphysics 12

The Unmoved Mover

Week Five, Feb 5/7/9

Aristotle *Nic. Ethics* Books 1, 10.4-8

Form and function in organisms

Human flourishing and Contemplation

Week Six, Feb 5/7/9th

Aristotle *Politics* Book 1

Political Animals

Midterm in class Friday Feb 9th

Reading Week, Feb 19-23

Week Seven, Feb 26/28, Mar 1

Hellenistic Philosophy pp. 5-19, 28-31

Atomism as a cure for fear

The 'fourfold cure'

Week Eight, Mar 4/6/8
Stoic physical theory
Divine purpose in everything

Hellenistic Philosophy pp. 141-61, 182-190

Week Nine, Mar 11/13/15
Living according to Reason and Nature
Freedom from passion
Second paper due in class, Friday Mar 15th

Hellenistic Philosophy pp. 203-232

Week Ten, Mar 18/20/22
Scepticism as a Route to Tranquillity

Hellenistic Philosophy pp. 302-308

Week Eleven, Mar 25/27

Porphyry Book 3, *On Abstinence from Killing Animals*

Week Twelve, Apr 3/5

Proclus *On Providence*

Week Thirteen, Apr 8/10/12

The Legacy of Ancient Greek Philosophy

Final Exam at scheduled time during exam period

Grade Distribution:

first paper:	25%	second paper:	25%
midterm:	25%	final:	25%

Policies:

Students seeking accommodation because of disabilities are asked to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Late penalties may be waived in cases of medical or family emergencies. A constructive classroom environment is essential to communication, especially in a seminar: students are expected to be considerate and respectful in discussion and to help maintain an inclusive academic environment.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.