

## Philosophy 212/AMNE 236: Greek Philosophy II

Winter Term 2 2023-4  
Professor Sylvia Berryman  
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OH MF 12-1, BUCH E-269 and by appt

MWF 1-2pm, MATH  
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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  
The Arguments against the Forms

Aristotle *On Ideas* 80.8-83.33

**Week Two**, Jan 15/17/19  
The problem of change: matter, form and privation  
Aristotle's Four Kinds of Explanation

Aristotle *Physics* 2.3-4, 2.7-9

**Week Three**, Jan 22/24/26  
Is the Future Settled?  
Is Time Real?

Aristotle *De Interpretatione* 9  
*Physics* 4.9-12

**First paper drafts due 4pm, Thursday Jan 25th**

**Week Four**, Jan 29/31/Feb 2  
Natural vs. Nonnatural Motion  
The Unmoved Mover

Aristotle *Physics* Bk 8.1-6  
*Metaphysics* 12

**First paper due Thursday Feb 1st**

**Week Five**, Feb 5/7/9  
Form and function in organisms  
Human flourishing and Contemplation

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

**Week Six**, Feb 12/14/16th  
Political Animals  
**Midterm in class Friday Feb 16th**

Aristotle *Politics* Book 1&2

**Reading Week**, Feb 19-23

**Week Seven**, Feb 26/28, Mar 1  
Atomism as a cure for fear  
The 'fourfold cure'

*Hellenistic Philosophy* pp. 5-19, 28-31

**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

*Hellenistic Philosophy* pp. 203-232

**Second paper drafts due 4pm, Thurs Mar 14th**

**Week Ten**, Mar 18/20/22  
Scepticism as a Route to Tranquillity  
**Second paper due Thursday Mar 21st**

*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 essay:	20%	second essay:	20%
draft workshop one:	5%	draft workshop two:	5%
midterm:	25%	final:	25%

We'll devote two classes (Jan 26th, Mar 15th) to peer critique of your draft essays, which are due this night before class. You earn 5% for participating in good faith in the draft workshops, which will help you improve your essay writing and editing skills.

Deadlines may seem artificial, but a university does need to work within a time structure! I will post topics for papers 2 weeks in advance, and use class time to help you prepare your drafts and improve your editing skills. Please plan ahead - there is no need to leave essay writing to the last minute, and workload is not a reason for asking for extensions. Late penalties are not huge: they're really an incentive for planning ahead and submitting work on time, and are normally only waived in the case of emergencies that can't be foreseen (illness and family emergencies). Work should not be submitted more than a week late, barring emergencies.

**Policies:**

Students seeking accommodation because of disabilities and special needs are asked to contact the instructor as soon as possible.

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.

Please contact me if you are falling behind for whatever reason!

**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.*