



Philosophy 301 (3 Credits)

**Ancient Philosophy**

Fall 2016

Morton Hall 337

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:20-3:40

Professor: Jeremy Fischer

Email: Jeremy.Fischer@uah.edu

Office: Morton Hall 332A

Office Hours: M & W 2:10-3:00, and  
T & Th 12:30-1:20

**Course Description**

This course will introduce you to the philosophical theories and arguments of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, as well as those of several (earlier) Presocratic and (later) Hellenistic philosophers. Students will learn how to scrutinize ancient texts and critically assess these philosophers' views on topics in ethics, moral psychology, political philosophy, epistemology, and metaphysics.

**Required Texts**

Julia Annas, ed., *Voices of Ancient Philosophy: An Introductory Reader* (OUP, 2001)

**Evaluation**

This course includes three kinds of evaluation: homework assignments, three quizzes, and class participation. A passing grade on each of the two main components of the course—homework assignments and quizzes—is a necessary condition for passing the course.

1. Nine Short Homework Assignments (40%)

- a. Assignments will typically consist of reconstructing or evaluating a short argument from the assigned text for that day, and will never require more than one page of writing.
- b. Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas for each class.
- c. These assignments, with the exception of the assignment about Plato's Allegory of the Cave, must be typed and printed out in 12-point font.
- d. As we discuss these assignments in class, you may correct by hand any errors you have made, and you will receive partial credit for these corrections.
- e. One purpose of these assignments is to enable sophisticated engagement with the lecture. So, assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the day on which they are due. Emailed assignments and assignments submitted by another person will not be accepted.
- f. Assignments are due on the following days: 8.30, 9.20, 9.27, 9.29, 10.11, 10.13, 10.20, 11.15, and 11.22.
- g. Note: the homework assignment about Plato's Allegory of the Cave, tentatively due on September 27<sup>th</sup>, is worth more than other assignments: 10% of the final grade).

2. Three In-Class Exams (15% + 15% + 20% = 50%)

Quizzes mostly consist of short concept-identification questions and short essay questions. Exams take place on 9.13, 11.1, and 12.1.

3. Class Participation (10%)

Class participation includes participation in classroom discussion, office hour visits, and email correspondence with me about the material of the course. You should participate in some way at least once every week, on average.

## Grading Scale

A+ ≥ 96%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%
A = 93-95%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%

Students on the borderline of two grades will be bumped up to the higher grade only if they have completed all assignments and if the final exam score reflects the higher grade.

## Policy on Late Assignments

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of a personal emergency. If you are unsure about whether your absence or late assignment is excusable, please ask me as soon as possible.

## Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is defined by UAH as the utilization of another person's written work, published or unpublished, as one's own work. Any indication of plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct will be investigated and documentation of such will be considered justification for failure of the course and disciplinary action. Plagiarism includes submitting for a grade, work previously submitted by another student or using the intellectual property of others without proper citation. As the course manager, I reserve the right to use plagiarism prevention software called **Turnitin** in order to help students learn how to write without taking words from another person's work. More information is available at the UAH Library: <http://libguides.uah.edu/plagiarism>.

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones and pagers are to be turned off during class and are not to be used during exams.

## Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities should contact UAH's Disability Support Services at 256.824.1997, 256.824.6672 (Fax), or [dssproctor@uah.edu](mailto:dssproctor@uah.edu). (Website: <http://www.uah.edu/health-and-wellness/disability-support>) If you have a letter from the Disability Services Office indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present the letter to me so we can discuss accommodations for the class.

# Summary Schedule of Reading Assignments

## PHL 301

\*\* = Homework assignment due for this class

### 1. Fate and Freedom

8.18: Introduction; Homer and Lucien, pp. 3-11

8.23: Aristotle vs. the Stoics, pp. 12-29

8.25: Epicureanism and Platonism, pp. 30-43

### 2. Reason and Emotion

\*\*8.30: Explanation of Inner Conflict, pp. 71-84

9.1: What is an Emotion? Aristotle pp. 85-97

9.6: What is an Emotion? Stoics and Medea, pp. 97-118

9.8: Reason, Emotions, and Faith, pp. 118-128

9.13: **Exam #1**

### 3. Knowledge, Belief, and Skepticism

9.15: Knowledge and Expertise, pp. 131-143

\*\*9.20: Knowledge and True Belief, pp. 143-156

9.22: Relativism and Plato's Epistemology I, pp. 156-177 (-514a)

\*\*9.27: Plato's Epistemology II, pp. 177-187

\*\*9.29: Aristotle's Epistemology, pp. 187-200

10.4: Skepticism, pp. 207-224

10.6: **Fall Break**

### 4. Metaphysical Questions

\*\*10.11: Reality and Paradox, pp. 227-234

\*\*10.13: Plato's Forms: *For*, pp. 234-246

10.18: Plato's Forms: *Against*, pp. 246-259

\*\*10.20: Cause and Explanation, pp. 259-280  
(esp. Plato and Aristotle)

10.25: Time, pp. 280-295 (esp. Aristotle)

10.27: Catch-Up and Review

### 5. How Should You Live?

11.1: **Exam #2**

11.3: The Starting Point for Ethical Reflection, and The First Theories, pp. 297-319

11.8: (Election Day) Aristotle, pp. 319-328

11.10: The Stoics and Epicureans, pp. 328-350

### 6. Society and the State

\*\*11.15: Nature or Convention (I)? pp. 373-393

11.17: Nature or Convention (II)? pp. 393-403

\*\*11.22: Democracy, pp. 405-407, 427-452

11.24: **Thanksgiving**

11.29: Catch-up and Review

12.1 at 3:00pm-5:30pm: **Exam #3**

# Detailed Schedule of Reading Assignments

## PHL 301

### 1. Fate and Freedom

8.18: Introduction; Homer and Lucien, pp. 3-11

Homer, *Iliad* 16, 512-548

Lucien, *Zeus Answers a Few Awkward Questions*

8.23: Aristotle vs. the Stoics, pp. 12-29

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* III, 5

Alexander of Aphrodisias, *On Fate* 22

Cicero, *On Fate* 40-43

Aulus Gellius, *Attic Nights* 7.2, 6-13

Alexander of Aphrodisias, *On Fate* 11-14

8.25: Epicureanism and Platonism, pp. 30-43

Epicurus, *On Nature* 34, 26-30

Diogenes of Oenoanda, *Epicurean Inscription* fragment 54, II-III

Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things* 2, 251-293

Plato, *Republic* 10 (The Myth of Er)

Alcinous, *Handbook of Platonism* 26

### 2. Reason and Emotion

\*\*8:30: Explanation of Inner Conflict, pp. 71-84

Plato, *Republic* 4, 436a-444a

Plato, *Republic* 9, 588b-590d

Plato, *Phaedrus* 253d-254e

9.1: What is an Emotion? Aristotle pp. 85-97

Aristotle, *Rhetoric* II, part of 1, 2, 5, 8

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* II, 1, parts of 2 and 3; IV, 5

9.6: What is an Emotion? Stoics and Medea, pp. 97-118

The Early Stoics on the Emotions

Seneca, *On Anger* I, 7-9, 12-14, 17-18; II, 1-4, 6-10, 28

Euripides, *Medea* 1021-1080

Epictetus, *Discourses* I, 28, 1-9; II, 17, 17-25

Galen, *On the Doctrines of Hippocrates and Plato* III, 3, 13-24

9.8: Reason, Emotions, and Faith, pp. 118-128

*The Fourth Book of Maccabees* selections

9.13: **Exam #1**

### 3. Knowledge, Belief, and Skepticism

9.15: Knowledge and Expertise, pp. 131-143  
Plato, *Laches* 189d-201c

\*\*9.20: Knowledge and True Belief, pp. 143-156  
Plato, *Meno* 80a-86d, 96b-99e  
Plato, *Theaetetus* 200d-201c

9.22: Relativism and Plato's Epistemology I, pp. 156-177  
Plato, *Theaetetus* 166e-172b, 177c-179b  
Plato, *Republic* 475b-484a, 507b-511e

\*\*9.27: Plato's Epistemology II, pp. 177-187  
Plato, *Republic* 514a-518d, 523a-525b, 531c-535a

\*\*9.29: Aristotle's Epistemology, pp. 187-200  
Aristotle, *Posterior Analytics* I, 1-3; II, 19  
Aristotle, *Metaphysics* I, 1-3; II, 1  
Aristotle, *Parts of Animals* I, 5

10.4: Skepticism, pp. 207-224  
Plato, *Theaetetus* 148-151d  
Sextus Empiricus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism* I, 1-30, 100-117; III, 1-12

#### 10.6: Fall Break

### 4. Metaphysical Questions

\*\*10.11: Reality and Paradox, pp. 227-234  
Parmenides, *The Way of Truth* fragments 1-8  
Zeno of Elea, *Arguments against Motion*

\*\*10.13: Plato's Forms: *For*, pp. 234-246  
Plato, *Phaedo* 73c-76e  
Plato, *Phaedo* 78c-79a  
Plato, *Symposium* 209e-212a  
Plato, *Republic* 596a-597e

10.18: Plato's Forms: *Against*, pp. 246-259  
Plato, *Parmenides* 128e-135c  
Diogenes of Sinope, *Lives of the Philosophers* VI, 53  
The Stoics on Plato's Forms  
Aristotle, *On Forms*

\*\*10.20: Cause and Explanation, pp. 259-280 (esp. Plato and Aristotle)  
Hippocratic Writings, *The Sacred Disease* selections  
Plato, *Phaedo* 96a-101e  
Aristotle, *On Coming-to-Be and Passing-Away* II, 9  
Aristotle, *Physics* II, 3, 7-9  
Plutarch, *Life of Pericles* 6  
The Epicureans against Teleology

10.25: Time, pp. 280-295 (esp. Aristotle)  
Aristotle, *Physics* IV, 10-11, 14  
The Stoics on Time  
Augustine, *Confessions* XI, selections

10.27: Catch-Up and Review

## 5. How Should You Live?

11.1: **Exam #2**

11.3: The Starting Point for Ethical Reflection, and The First Theories, pp. 297-319

Aristotle, *Rhetoric* I, 5 (extract)  
Herodotus, *Histories* I, 29-24  
Democritus, *Fragments on Ethics*  
Plato, *Gorgias* 468e-479e

11.8: (Election Day) Aristotle, pp. 319-328

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10

11.10: The Stoics and Epicureans, pp. 328-350

Cicero, *On Final Ends* III, 16-17, 20-26, 32-39, 42-71  
Epicurus, *Letter to Menoeceus* 121-135  
Cicero, *On Final Ends* I, 29-33, 37-70

## 6. Society and the State

\*\*11.15: Nature or Convention (I)? pp. 373-393

Plato, *Protagoras* 320c-323c  
Antiphon the Sophist *Fragment* 7  
Plato, *Gorgias* 482e-484c  
Plato, *Crito* 50a-54e  
Plato, *Republic* 358c-360d  
Aristotle, *Politics* I, 2  
Aristotle, *Politics* III, 9

11.17: Nature or Convention (II)? pp. 393-403

Epicurus, *Principle Doctrines* 31-38  
Diogenes of Oenoanda, *Epicurean Inscription* fragment 56  
Cicero, *On Duties* III, 37-39  
Cicero, *On Laws* I, 17-35, 42-45

\*\*11.22: Democracy, pp. 405-407, 427-452

Plato, *Republic* 488a-489c  
Herodotus, *Histories* III, 80-83  
The Old Oligarch, *Selections*  
Aristotle, *Politics* IV, 3, 4, 7-9, 11  
Polybius, *Histories* VI, 2

11.24: **Thanksgiving Break**

11.29: Catch-up and Review

12.1 at 3:00pm-5:30pm: **Exam #3**