PHL 312: History of Ancient Greek Philosophy   Fall 2016
Tuesday/Thursday, 1PM-2:50PM, Building 98C, Room 5-7

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Office Hours: Tuesday 5:15PM-7PM, Building 1, Room 329
Additional electronic office hours likely on Friday, exact time to be determined

Course Description: An introduction to ancient Greek philosophy. We will primarily study
Plato and Aristotle, and we will conclude with readings on stoicism, primarily by Epictetus. In
examining these texts, we will reflect on how we ought to live and what we can know about
religion, justice, virtue, happiness, love, ourselves, and the fundamental nature of reality.

Course Goals
- Develop a historical and critical understanding of the questions, arguments, and views that
  gripped ancient Greek philosophers.
- Improve your critical thinking skills, especially your skills for evaluating, developing, and
  defending reasoned arguments

Required Readings: YOU MUST GET THE RIGHT TRANSLATIONS!
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Translator: David Ross, ISBN: 0199213615 (Oxford World's
Classics), Revised Edition
Epictetus, *Handbook (Encheiridion)*, Trans: Nicholas P. White, ISBN: 0915145693 (Hackett)
Plato, *Republic*, Trans: C.D.C. Reeve, ISBN: 0872207366 (Hackett)
Plato, *Symposium*, Trans: Alexander Nehamas & Paul Woodroff, ISBN: 0872200760 (Hackett)

Julia Annas, *Ancient Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford)
FREE EBOOK IN LIBRARY HERE: http://opac.library.cpp.edu/record=b3553316~S4
- Additional readings will be accessible on Blackboard

Additional Required Materials: YOU MAY NEED AN <u>ICLICKER</u> FOR THE QUIZZES
- I'm still figuring this out. More info soon.

Course Grading and Requirements
Attendance and Participation: 20%
Quizzes: 20%
First Paper: 15%
Second Paper: 20%
Third Paper or Final Exam: 25%

Course Grading and Requirements continued

Attendance & Participation (20%): This includes attendance, participation, and in-class assignments. **Attendance is mandatory, as is arriving on time.** Excused absences require signed documentation from a doctor or dean. **Participation and preparation are crucial.** There are a variety of ways to participate, including: actively contributing to discussions, demonstrating reflection on the readings, listening carefully to others' contributions (not dominating discussion), and showing respect toward classmates. If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, I encourage you to visit my office hours and contribute more to the Discussion Board on Blackboard. There may also be in-class debates and group work. PowerPoint slides will be posted to Blackboard after class. You are expected to remain engaged in the class and take notes. I may decide to stop posting lecture slides if students are not paying sufficient attention.

No Laptops or Phones: laptops, tablets, and cell phones cannot be used in the classroom, and must be kept off desks, unless you get my express consent. If you need to use a laptop or tablet during class, please contact me outside of class, by email or during office hours.

Quizzes (20%): Most classes will begin with a 10-minute quiz on the assigned reading. The quizzes tend to be very difficult, but they are graded on a generous curve. (Typically, getting around 50% of the questions right translates roughly to a B grade.) **Note**: if you are struggling with the quizzes—for whatever reason—please come talk to me.

Papers (35-60%): There will be three short paper assignments. Due dates to be announced. Papers will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade for every day late ("A" becomes "A-" if one day late, "B+" if two days late, etc.).
-   I am considering having a final exam instead of a third paper. Thoughts?

Academic Integrity: The University trusts each student to maintain high standards of honesty and ethical behavior. I will observe Cal Poly Policies on Honesty and Plagiarism. While teamwork is encouraged, any kind of cheating is unacceptable. **Students that fail to observe honesty and plagiarism policies will fail the course, and their cases will be reported to the Judicial Affairs Committee.** I will distribute a handout on academic integrity for each student to sign and return to me.

Reading Schedule

Note: the readings and schedule are **tentative and subject to change**. I will confirm the specific upcoming readings in every class, and after class via emailed Announcements on Blackboard.

Week 1
9/22:   Introduction; begin Euthyphro

Week 2
9/27:   Watch "Euthyphro Dilemma, Part 1" by SoccerTees and PlayDough
        Finish Euthyphro

9/29:   Julia Annas, Ch.2, "Why do we read Plato's *Republic*?"
        David Roochnik selection regarding why Socrates didn't write down his ideas

Week 3
10/4:   Plato, *Republic*, Book I

10/6: *Republic*, Book II
1st Paper Assignment Distributed

Week 4
10/11: *Republic*, Books III-IV (selections);
Annas, Ch.1 "Humans and beasts: understanding ourselves"

10/13: *Republic*, Books V-VI (selections)
Annas, Ch.4, "Reason, knowledge and skepticism"

Week 5
10/18: *Republic*, Books VII-VIII (selections)

10/20: *Republic*, Books IX-X (selections)
1st Paper Due

Week 6
10/25: Plato, *Symposium*, up to "Socrates Questions Agathon" (pp.1-44, 172A-201C)

10/27: Finish *Symposium*, (pp.45-77, 201D-223D)
2nd Paper Assignment Distributed

Week 7
11/1: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I.1-9
Annas, Ch.3, "The happy life, ancient and modern"

11/3: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I.13, Book II (selections)

Week 8
11/8: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books III-V (selections)

11/10: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book X
2nd Paper Due

Week 9
11/15: Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I, II, and VII (selections)

11/17: WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY! We might move class to another location as part of a larger event.
3rd Paper Assignment Distributed

Week 10
11/22: Epictetus, *Handbook*

11/24: THANKSGIVING. Try to follow Epictetus' advice…

Week 11
11/29 & 12/1: Catch up. If we have extra time, we might get into Aristotle's metaphysics, more stoic philosophy, or Epicurus on why we shouldn't fear death…

Week 12 (Finals Week)
3rd Paper Assignment Due… or final exam