

PH-203: GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2010

Meetings: T/TH 9:40-11:00 a.m., Ladd 307

Instructor: Matthew Ostrow, Department of Religion and Philosophy
Office: 214 Ladd Hall
Email: mostrow@skidmore.edu
Phone: 580-5403
Home phone: 583-3726

Office Hours: Tue: 11-12:00 p.m.; Thur.: 12-1:00 p.m., Fri. 11:20-12:20 p.m.;
and by appointment

Texts: Cohen, Curd, & Reeve (eds.), *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*
Plato's *Republic* (Sachs, trans.)

Aims of the Course:

This course aims to offer an overview of the development of Ancient Greek Philosophy from its inception with Thales to Aristotle, undeniably one of its pinnacles. In exploring this material, we will touch on all, or nearly all, of the central concerns of the Western philosophical tradition: ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, politics, aesthetics, religion, and logic. The focus will be on close analysis of primary texts. We shall seek to explore our texts in as much depth as possible, but the sheer scope of our subject requires that we proceed at a fairly rapid pace. It is therefore essential to keep up with the readings as outlined below: students will be expected to have read and reflected on the relevant sections *before* each class. This will facilitate class discussion, which, as is the case in any philosophy course, is critical to gaining an understanding of the material.

Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory. Unless there is a genuine issue, you will lose one grade increment for each absence (e.g., with one absence a final grade of "A" will become an "A-", with two it will become a B+, and so forth). In addition, there will be three papers of moderate length and a philosophical journal. Participation in class discussion is strongly encouraged and will count toward the final grade.

SCHEDULE

January	26	Introduction
	28	Thales, Anaximander, Anixemenes, pp. 1-14
February	2	Heraclitus, pp. 24-34
	4	Parmenides, pp. 35-41
	9	Parmenides, pp. 35-41
	11	Anaxagoras, Democritus, pp. 42-47, 64-71
	16	<i>Apology</i> 17a-42a; pp. 115-140; Paper I due
	18	<i>Meno</i> 70a-79e; pp. 203-211
	23	<i>Meno</i> 80a-87c; pp.
March	25	<i>Meno</i> 87d-90e; pp.
	2	<i>Meno</i> 91a-100b; pp.
	4	<i>Phaedo</i> 57a-72e; pp. 229-243; Pythagoras, pp. 16-20
	9	<i>Phaedo</i> 72e-78a; pp. 243-248
	11	<i>Phaedo</i> 78a-100b, pp. 248-267
	16	No Class (spring break)
	28	No Class (spring break)
	23	<i>Phaedo</i> 100b-118a, pp. 267-281
	25	<i>Republic</i> VI 484a-509c; pp. 477-500
April	30	<i>Republic</i> VI 509c-511e; pp. 500-503
	1	No Class
	6	No Class
	8	<i>Republic</i> VII 514a-532a; pp. 504-520
	13	<i>Republic</i> VII 532a-541b; pp. 520-528
	15	<i>Parmenides</i> 127b-135d; pp. 604-613
	20	<i>Metaphysics</i> I.1-2; pp. 758-762; Paper II due
	22	<i>Posterior Analytics</i> I.1-4; II.19, pp. 676-683; 690-693
	27	<i>Metaphysics</i> I.3-9; pp. 762-771
May	29	<i>Physics</i> I.1-II.3; pp. 694-709
	4	<i>Physics</i> II.4-II.9; pp. 709-719

Final Paper Due: May 12