

**Philosophy 200 & 300: Greek Philosophy**  
**Autumn 2007                      MWF 12:30-1:50                      Roush 330**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Course Overview and Objectives**

This is a course in the history of Greek Philosophy. The three most important philosophers in the ancient western tradition, Socrates (470-399), Plato (428/7-347), and Aristotle (384-322) will be the focus of our course. In addition to these three thinkers, we will spend some time looking at the group of philosophers collectively known as the “Pre-Socratics”, and perhaps also have time to look at some of the more important post-Aristotelian philosophers. As regards content, we will pursue two themes: the ancient Greek conception of the good life and, secondly, ancient Greek conceptions of knowledge and reality. As regards the latter theme, we shall be especially concerned with problems surrounding the notion of permanence and change.

The primary goal of this course is to gain an appreciation of the ideas and arguments of the early philosophers, and to see how the views they gave voice to remain prominent in our thinking about the world to the present day. A secondary, but no less important goal, is to develop the critical thinking and writing skills essential to success in any philosophy class. We shall spend a good deal of time *interacting* with these texts, and doing so serves both goals: it is only by responding to what these philosophers have written that we will come to understand their positions, and by engaging in a philosophic conversation with them we will hone our critical skills. The reading for this course is, at times, quite difficult, but with the help of the professor and the other students, and with a good deal of effort on your own part, you will come out of this class with a deeper appreciation of Western philosophical thought, and the roots of Western culture in general. Students who are enrolled in Phil 300 will also spend some time thinking more deeply about one of Plato’s more important dialogues, *The Symposium*, which is an important document in the philosophy of love and the emotions.

**Instructor Information**

Prof. Andrew P. Mills

Office: Towers 323

Office Phone: 823-1368 (leave voicemail if I’m not there)

Autumn Quarter Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2-3, and by appointment.

E-mail: [amills@otterbein.edu](mailto:amills@otterbein.edu)

**Texts**

There are two textbooks for this course (three for those enrolled in Philosophy 300). Everyone must purchase:

Cohen, Curd, and Reeve (eds.) *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Hackett Publishing Company, 2005.

C.D.C Reeve, *Women in the Academy: Dialogues on Themes from Plato’s Republic*. Hackett Publishing Company, 2001

There are also some course readings posted on Blackboard.

**Course Requirements**

This is a text-based course, and it is imperative that you do the assigned reading (preferably twice) before coming to class each day. If you don’t do the reading, you will not learn the material, and you will find the lectures much more difficult to follow. I have provided a number of study

questions to help you focus your reading on the important themes. If I see that students are not doing the reading, I may start having pop reading quizzes.

The second imperative is that you have an email account, and regular, reliable access to the internet. All of the course materials will be on the Blackboard site, and e-mail is the best and quickest way I know of to communicate with all of you, and for you all to communicate with each other. I will make regular updates to the course website, and you should get in the habit of checking it daily. If you do not have an email account, visit the Information Technology department, and get set up. It is easy to do, and it is free.

Here's a breakdown of the graded work for the course. Following this breakdown is a fuller description of each of the graded requirements. Students enrolled in Phil 300 will write the second paper on some issue that arises in our discussions of Kraut's book, *Socrates and the State*.

First Short Paper .....	200 points
Second Paper .....	250 points
First Quiz.....	150 points
Second Quiz.....	150 points
Third Quiz.....	150 points
Attendance & Participation .....	<u>100 points</u>
	1000 points

### **Papers**

The first paper will be short (2 to 3 pages) and will be on an assigned topic. Due date is indicated in the Schedule of Readings and Assignments. The second paper will be longer (4 to 6 pages) and I will give you a selection of topics to choose from. You may, with prior approval from me, write on a topic of your choice. Students enrolled in Phil 300 will write their second paper on a topic related to our discussion of *Socrates and the State* and the paper should be in the 1500-2000 word range (6-8 pages). The Second Paper will serve as our final exam, and will be due during the scheduled exam date.

### **Quizzes**

There will be three quizzes during the quarter (specific dates are indicated on the Schedule of Readings and Assignments below). These quizzes will feature short answer questions and will also require you to analyze some philosophic texts that you have not seen before. These will be in-class quizzes.

### **Attendance & Participation**

I will take attendance, and it will count toward your grade. I don't like to take attendance, but I have learned that if I do not, students don't come to class. If you have to miss class, please notify me ahead of time. In cases where you are missing class for an officially excusable reason, please bring the relevant notes to me. If you are going to miss more than 5 classes during the quarter, you should think about dropping the class. For if you miss that many classes, it is not the case that you have actually *taken* the course. If there are going to be persistent attendance worries, please see me and we can try to make some arrangements. It is important that you show up *having done the readings*. If I notice that students are not doing the readings, I may give some unannounced reading quizzes.

Participation is more than merely showing up and sitting in your seat. Asking questions during class, participating in the discussion, showing that you have done and thought about the reading, etc. are the practices that will get you participation points. Philosophy is an interactive discipline, and you will not learn the material if you do not take the risks and speak up in class.

Moreover, I cannot know just what it is you are not understanding unless you let me know, and that requires asking informed questions.

### **Philosophy 300 Meetings**

Students enrolled in Phil 300 will have an extra meeting each week (Thursdays, 3-3:50) to discuss the issues in *Symposium*. Attendance at these meetings will be required to earn credit for the 300-level course. Other students are free to join these discussions.

### **Opportunity for Extra Credit**

You can earn thirty extra credit points (out of 1,000 total, which is perhaps enough to turn a B+ into an A-) by reading and submitting a two page review of one of the candidates for the 2007-8 Common Book. The Common Book is selected by a committee of students and faculty each year, and the committee is always looking for student input. There is a list of the books which are being considered for next year's Common Book at the Courtright Memorial Library website (click on "Common Book" then on "Books Nominated for Next Year"). This list is updated throughout the quarter. Simply read one of the books, then submit an evaluation of the book, suitable for the Common Book committee. You should review the criteria which the common book should meet, and then write your evaluation in terms of those criteria. Describe what the book is about and whether you think it would make a good common book. It is not enough to simply say "this would (or would not) be a good common book", but you need to elaborate the reasons which support your opinion. Submit your evaluations to me, and I will forward them on to the Common Book Committee. You will receive extra credit, and the Common Book Committee will receive valuable input as they work to select next year's book. (You are also invited to serve on this committee if you like—Contact the committee co-chair, Mr. David Stucki in the Math Dept. for more information about the time and location of the meetings.)

### **Policies on Attendance, Late Papers, and Grades**

#### **Attendance**

In addition to affecting the attendance portion of your grade, failing to attend will likely affect the other components of your grade, since if you miss class you will likely not come to understand the material as well as you would if you attend class. If you do come to class, please make every effort to arrive on time. It is terribly rude, not to mention disruptive, disrespectful, and distracting to your colleagues and to me, to walk in after class has begun. I expect all of us (that includes me) to be in the room and ready to go at the scheduled hour.

#### **Late Work**

Work turned in late without prior approval from me will be dealt with as I see fit—this includes lowering the grade on the assignment because of its lateness. I do not feel obligated to give extensive comments on late work, so if you want comments on your papers, please turn them in on time. Consult the Schedule of Readings and Assignments for due dates.

#### **What grades mean**

**A Excellent** An 'A' is awarded for original insight, sound reasoning and the ability to evaluate the scope of the material studied. In addition, an 'A' indicates sensitivity to the important issues and an ability to carry on philosophical thinking beyond the confines of the text. In the case of written work, lucid, grammatically correct prose and clear organization are necessary to receive a grade in the A range. An 'A' on a paper is like a rating of five stars on a movie—it is really something special.

**B Good** A 'B' reflects an interpretive skill and a clear understanding of the meaning and interrelatedness of the course materials. A 'B'; indicates the ability to report the views of the others in one's own words with no glaring flaws, errors, or misunderstandings. In the case of written work, 'B' papers include generally readable prose, which does not include too much irrelevant information or discussion off the assigned topic.

**C Fair** A 'C' indicates a thorough familiarity with basic course materials. Work which receives a 'C' does more or less what was assigned, though is unable to move beyond the texts in any significant way (e.g., unable to clearly render in one's own words the views of others). In the case of written work, 'C' papers have numerous grammatical, spelling, stylistic, or organizational errors which make it difficult to understand written work, and/or significant forays into the realm of the irrelevant.

**D Poor** A 'D' reflects only a minimal grasp of course material. 'D' work exhibits serious factual errors and misunderstandings, and usually fails to accomplish the assigned task.

**F Failure** An 'F' is assigned for failing work, and indicates a lack of interest in the course and/or an ability to handle it. Work not handed in, or turned in late without the proper permission, will receive an 'F'.

### Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

I strongly recommend that you review the College policy on plagiarism and cheating. It can be found in the Campus Life Handbook on pp. 61-2. Plagiarized work, or work which is the product of academic dishonesty will receive an 'F' (0 points), and will be reported to the Academic Dean's office. You should review this statement, as well as the discussion of plagiarism in *The Blair Handbook* or *The Everyday Writer*. If you can't easily locate the college policy, let me know and I will get you a copy of it.

### Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Please do the assigned reading *before* coming to class.

Week I		
September	10	<b>Course Introduction</b> Read Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> (in class)
	12	Continue <i>Euthyphro</i>
	14	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (Supplemental: Xenophon, <i>Apology</i> . On Blackboard)
Week II		
	17	Plato, <i>Crito</i>
	19	Plato, <i>Republic I</i>
	21	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , II-IV Alexander Sesonke, "Plato's Apology: <i>Republic I</i> " (on Blackboard)
Week III		
	24	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , II-IV, continued <b>FIRST PAPER DUE (at the beginning of class)</b>
	26	Plato, <i>Republic VIII-IX</i>
	28	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , V (through 473b) C.D.C. Reeve, "Women" (Chapter 1 of <i>Women in the Academy</i> )
Week IV		
October	1	Plato, <i>Republic X</i> (to 608b) C.D.C. Reeve, "Art" (Chapter 2 of <i>Women in the Academy</i> ) J. O. Urmson, "Plato and the Poets" (on Blackboard)

	3	C.D.C Reeve, "Justice" (Chapter 3 of <i>Women in the Academy</i> ) C.D.C Reeve, "Freedom" (Chapter 5 of <i>Women in the Academy</i> )
	5	<b>FIRST QUIZ</b>
<b>Week V</b>		
	8	<b>NO CLASS—COLUMBUS DAY</b>
	10	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , I-II
	12	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , III, X
<b>Week VI</b>		
	15	Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoecceus</i> , Principle Doctrines (on Blackboard) Alain de Botton, "Consolation for Not Having Enough Money" (Chapter II of <i>The Consolations of Philosophy</i> —on Blackboard)
	17	Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Heraclitus (pp. 8-14; 24-34 in Cohen, Curd, and Reeve)
	19	Parmenides, Zeno (pp. 35-41, 59-63 in Cohen, Curd, and Reeve)
<b>Week VII</b>		
	22	Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Democritus, Leucippus (pp. 42-58, 64-71 in Cohen, Curd, and Reeve)
	24	(Review Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> ) Plato, <i>Meno</i>
	26	<b>SECOND QUIZ</b>
<b>Week VIII</b>		
	29	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i>
	31	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> (finish)
November	2	Plato, <i>Republic</i> V (Focus on the "Knowledge Argument", from 476-480) Plato, <i>Republic</i> VI, VII (Focus on the Sun, Line, and Cave analogies)
<b>Week IX</b>		
	5	Plato, <i>Republic</i> X (Focus on the "one over many" argument at 596) Plato, <i>Parmenides</i> C.D.C Reeve, "Forms" (Chapter 4 of <i>Women in the Academy</i> )
	7	Finish Plato Aristotle, <i>Categories</i>
	9	Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> I-II
<b>Week X</b>		
	12	Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> I-II, continued Aristotle, <i>Generation &amp; Corruption</i>
	14	Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i>
	16	<b>THIRD QUIZ</b>
<b>Exam Week</b>		
	21	10:00 <b>SECOND PAPER DUE</b>