PHIL 211: Ancient Philosophy

Summer 2020 – Session B
MTWRF (Online)

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to the history of philosophy based on translations of texts originally written in classical Greek (or Latin). We will begin with the existent works or fragments of Presocratic philosophers such as Thales and Heraclitus. We will then spend the remainder of our time on the works of Plato and Aristotle. As a bonus, I will also post some material by Hellenistic and Roman philosophers. We will focus on the development of Ancient Greek (and, as a bonus, Hellenistic and Roman) conceptions of nature, first principles, justice, virtue, the good life and more.

Learning Outcomes: Students can expect to gain a general understanding of ancient Western philosophy, spanning from the Presocratics to Plato and Aristotle (and also the Hellenists and Romans, as a bonus). They will be able to identify the major thinkers and works of these periods, and will also become familiar with the arguments and methods they employ. Finally, students will acquire the philosophical skills to interpret primary texts, analyze their arguments and paraphrase/defend those arguments clearly and concisely in their own writing.

Requirements: Given that this is an online course, participation in class activities will take the place of attendance. Please make sure you follow along with the course schedule and keep up with the reading and writing assignments. And while there are many supplementary materials available online, some of which may be included on Laulima, you are strongly encouraged to read the course texts on your own first before appealing to the internet for summaries or explanations. This will certainly sharpen your minds, but it will also help you avoid becoming dependent on false or misguided interpretations. Other than coursework, there will be a midterm exam and a final exam, both of which should be turned in by the deadlines mentioned in the course schedule below.

Required Text: None. All readings will be posted on Laulima.

Evaluation: Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Laulima Discussion: 30%
- Reading Responses: 30%
- Exam I: 20%
- Exam II: 20%

Grading:

A+	100-97	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67	F 59-0
A	96-93	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-63	
A-	92-90	B-	82-80	C-	72-70	D-	62-60	

Assignments: Read the following carefully and make sure all assignments are turned in on time. If you are having trouble keeping up with the assignments for whatever reason, please email me as soon as possible, so we can work out a solution.

1. Post one question, comment or response to a classmate in the Forums section of Laulima ***each class day***. This is not only meant to help you keep up with the readings, but to also improve your engagement with them. During any given week, if you choose to respond to a classmate's post, your response should be to something they wrote that same week. Additionally, I will comment on at least one of your posts each week. Before the end of the week, you should write a short response to one of my comments, which will count as one of your daily posts.
2. Write and submit a 1-2 page reflection paper offering an analysis of one assigned reading ***once per week***. These papers should be typed (doubled-spaced, 12-pt font, 1-inch margins) and uploaded to the Assignments section of Laulima by 11:59 PM each Sunday. Each paper should include the following:
    - A paragraph summarizing the reading
    - A paragraph critiquing the argument
    - A brief conclusion
3. Complete two open-book exams, which will be posted on Laulima later in the semester. These exams will consist of a series of short- and long-response questions related to the readings. On the two exam weeks, no reflection papers will be due and you will not be required to respond to my comments. Also, on the due dates for the exams (7/24 & 8/14), no Laulima posts will be due.

Academic Integrity: Cheating is a serious issue and will not be tolerated. Any student found to have cheated on an assignment or examination will receive an automatic failing grade for the course. In addition, any breaches in the ethical standards of the UH community may be reported to the appropriate academic dean. If you are uncertain about what constitutes a compromise of academic integrity, please consult the UHM Student Conduct Code. For additional information on plagiarism, please refer to the following website: http://www.cte.hawaii.edu/plagiarism/index_final.html.

Accessibility: If you require additional accommodations, please feel free to speak with me to discuss your specific needs, or contact the KOKUA Program: Queen Lili`uokalani Center for Student Services (QLCSS), Room 013; (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612; kokua@hawaii.edu; https://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/about/contact-info-and-staff.php.

Health Services: University Health Services Mānoa (UHSM) is staffed by physicians, nurse clinicians, nurses, and other support staff, and offers a wide range of medical services and programs to UHM students, with many of the services also available to UHM faculty and staff and students from other UH campuses. Services include general medical care on a walk- in basis; women's health, sports medicine, psychiatry, and dermatology clinics by appointment; pharmacy and clinical laboratory; and student training, employment and volunteer opportunities. For more information, please contact UHSM:

1710 East West Road Honolulu, Hawaii 96822; (808) 956- 8965; https://www.hawaii.edu/shs/.

Mental Health: College work is hard and often stressful or psychologically demanding. It is important to study hard and do your best, but it is even more important to be kind to and take care of yourself. The instructor is available to discuss such matters if there is need. The University also has resources available. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, please do not hesitate to contact the Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC): QLCSS 312; (808) 956-7927; http://manoa.hawaii.edu/counseling/.

Title IX: The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment free from all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these aggressions, the University has the requisite staff and resources to assist you. For additional information about sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University's Title IX resources, and the University's Policy, go to: https://manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/.

LGBTQ+ Center: This office provides direct services to UHM students to confidentially discuss or seek advocacy and support for mistreatment due to their actual or perceived sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. For more information, go to: QLCSS 211; (808) 956-9250; lgbtq@hawaii.edu; https://manoa.hawaii.edu/lgbtq/.

Prevention, Awareness, and Understanding (PAU) Violence Program: This program exists to inspire, educate, and empower students and campus communities to build safe living- learning environments, end interpersonal violence, and encourage holistic well-being in ways that are supportive, collaborative, student-centered, and strengths-based. PAU Violence Program staff provides direct services to all University of Hawai'i at Mānoa students including crisis response, safety planning, academic support, and referrals to campus and community resources. For more information, go to: QLCSS 211; (808) 956-8059; uhmpau@hawaii.edu; http://manoa.hawaii.edu/pauviolence/index.php.

Student Parents At Mānoa (SPAM): This group seeks to increase the visibility of and resources for student parents at UHM as they pursue education while parenting. SPAM staff provides advocacy, support, and referrals for pregnant and parenting students to help them succeed in their educational goals. For more information, go to: QLCSS 211; (808) 956-8059; gotkids@hawaii.edu; http://manoa.hawaii.edu/studentparents/.

International Student Services (ISS): ISS serves as a resource to international students and the UHM campus community by encouraging and supporting international students to meet their educational, professional and personal goals. ISS monitors visa status for international students attending UHM with the F-1 or J-1 student visa status. For more information, go to: QLCSS 206; (808) 956-8613; issmanoa@hawaii.edu; http://hawaii.edu/issmanoa/.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PRESOCRATICS

Week 1
Introduction (The Preliminary Stages of Philosophy)
The Milesians
Pythagoras and Early Pythagoreanism

Week 2
Xenophanes of Colophon
Heraclitus of Ephesus
Parmenides of Elea
Zeno of Elea

Week 3
Empedocles of Acragas
Anaxagoras of Clazomenae
Leucippus and Democritus: Fifth-Century Atomism
The Sophists (Protagoras & Gorgias)

Exam I (Due Friday 7/24 at 11:59 PM)

PLATO

Week 4
Euthyphro
Apology
Meno

Week 5
Republic, Books I-X (excerpts)

ARISTOTLE

Week 6
Politics
Physics
Nicomachean Ethics

Exam II (Due Friday 8/14 at 11:59 PM)

HELLENISTS & ROMANS

Week 7 (Bonus)
Epicurus
Pyrrho of Elis
Epictetus
Plotinus