

Faculty of Arts – Department of Philosophy

**PHL 187**  
**Ancient Philosophy**  
**Winter 2014**

**Section 1:** Thu 10am – 12pm in VIC 203  
Fri 10am – 11am in RCC 201  
**Section 2:** Wed 2pm – 3pm in RCC 201  
Thu 2pm – 4pm in KHW 057

**Instructor Name:** Boris Hennig  
**Office Location:** JOR - 438  
**Office Hours:** Tue 2pm – 3pm  
Wed 11am – 12pm  
**Phone:** 416.979.5000, ext. 7186  
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### **Calendar Description**

This course explores major themes in Ancient Greek thought. The course covers some of the doctrines Plato and Aristotle developed to answer a wide range of questions, e.g., What is the good life for a human being? What is knowledge? How should we distinguish reality from appearances? What kinds of things exist? What is the soul? Is the soul immortal? In addition, we may examine the ideas of other philosophers of this period.

### **Course Details**

This course will give an overview of three main strands in Ancient Greek thought: (1) early cosmology, (2) the sophists, (3) philosophy. We will do this by tracing the conception of justice and equality in nature and society.

In particular, we will focus on (1) fragments by Anaximander, (2) a speech by Gorgias, and (3) Plato's dialogue with the title *Gorgias* and parts of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*.

All students are asked to prepare all assigned readings for discussion. I will begin each week by giving an overview for one hour; then we will discuss your questions and the readings for two hours.

A course website (Blackboard) is accessible via <http://my.ryerson.ca>.

### **Textbook**

The readings for Anaximander and Gorgias (not the dialogue by Plato) will be provided online on Blackboard. In addition, the following books should be acquired:

- Plato: *Gorgias*, translated by D. Zeyl, Hackett 1987.
- Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by R. Crisp, Cambridge University Press 2000.

Other editions of these texts may be used *only if they contain Stephanus page numbers (Plato) and Bekker page numbers (Aristotle) in the margin*. For Plato's *Gorgias*, these are the page numbers 447a-527e; for the *Nicomachean Ethics* it is 1094a-1181b.

### Course Schedule

#	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Sept 3-5	Introduction, Overview	—
2	Sept 10-12	Anaximander, Fragments	Fragments [on Blackboard]
3	Sept 17-19	Gorgias, Palamedes	Palamedes [on Blackboard]
4	Sept 24-26	Plato, Overview / Gorgias	<i>Gorgias</i> 447a-461b
5	Oct 1-3	Plato, Gorgias (Polus)	<i>Gorgias</i> 461b-481b
6	Oct 8-10	Plato, Gorgias (Callicles)	<i>Gorgias</i> 481b-506c
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7	Oct 22-24	Plato, Gorgias (Socrates)	<i>Gorgias</i> 506c-527d
	<b>Oct 25</b>	<b>First Reading Response due</b>	
8	Oct 29-31	Aristotle: Overview	—
9	Nov 5-7	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> I	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> 1094a-1103a
10	Nov 12-14	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> II	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> 1103a-1109b
11	Nov 19-21	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> V	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> 1129a-1138b
	<b>Nov 22</b>	<b>Second Reading Response due</b>	
12	Nov 26-28	Recap	—
	<b>Exam week</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	

### Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- General participation: 15 %
- **Summary of one discussion session** (ca. 500 words, due **before Nov 22nd**): 10 %
- **First Reading Response** on Plato's *Gorgias* (ca. 500 words, due **Oct 25th**): 10 %
- **Second Reading Response** on Aristotle's *Ethics* (ca. 500 words, due **Nov 22nd**): 10 %
- **Analytical Essay** (ca. 1000 words, due **before November 22nd**): 15 %
- Final Exam: 40 %

The discussion summary and the analytical essay may be submitted any time before November 22nd; the first reading response is due Oct 25th. Late assignments will be penalized by subtracting 10% off the grade per day (including weekends and holidays). Extensions will only be given in very exceptional circumstances and must be agreed upon at

least 72 hours before the deadline. E-mailed requests will not normally be accepted; please meet me in person.

Style requirements: 12pt, double spaced, one inch margin, no extra space between paragraphs. Refer properly to all sources. Please do not quote Wikipedia or random websites; generally refer to materials that are also available in print.

All assignments will be checked for plagiarism (see below on academic conduct). Adobe pdf format is preferred, Microsoft Word and Apple Pages are acceptable.

### **Missed Classes and/or Evaluations**

Students are required to inform their instructors of any situation which arises during the semester which may have an adverse effect upon their academic performance, and must request any considerations and accommodations according to the relevant policies and well in advance. Failure to do so will jeopardize any academic appeals.

*Medical certificates* – If a student misses the deadline for submitting an assignment, or the date of an exam or other evaluation component because of illness, he or she must submit a Ryerson Student Medical Certificate AND an Academic Consideration form within 3 working days of the missed date. Both documents are available at [www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/medical.pdf](http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/medical.pdf). If you are a full-time or part-time degree student, then you submit your forms to your own program department or school. If you are a certificate or non-certificate student, then you submit your forms to the staff at the front desk of the Chang School.

*Religious observance* – If a student needs accommodation because of religious observance, he or she must submit a Request for Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance AND an Academic Consideration form within the first 2 weeks of the class or, for a final examination, within 2 weeks of the posting of the examination schedule. If the required absence occurs within the first 2 weeks of classes, or the dates are not known well in advance as they are linked to other conditions, these forms should be submitted with as much lead time as possible in advance of the required absence. Both documents are available at <http://www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/reobservforminstr.pdf>. If you are a full-time or part-time degree student, then you submit the forms to your own program department or school. If you are a certificate or non-certificate student, then you submit the forms to the staff at the front desk of the Chang School.

*Access centre* – In order to facilitate the academic success and access of all students, some students may need to register with the Access Centre (<http://www.ryerson.ca/student-services/accesscentre/index.html>). Before the first graded work is due, students should also inform their instructor through an “Accommodation Form for Professors” that they are registered with the Access Centre and what accommodations are required.

### **Student Code of Academic Conduct**

The Ryerson Student Code of Academic Conduct defines academic misconduct, the processes the University will follow when academic misconduct is suspected, and the consequences that can be imposed if students are found to be guilty of misconduct. Further information is also available at [www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity).

Academic misconduct includes:

- plagiarism (claiming words, ideas, artistry, drawings or data of another person as your own, including submitting your own work in whole or in part in more than one course)
- cheating
- misrepresentation of personal identity or performance
- submission of false information
- contributing to academic misconduct
- damaging, tampering, or interfering with the scholarly environment
- unauthorized copying or use of copyrighted materials
- violations of departmental policies on professional behavior and/or course requirements

I will use Turnitin to help detecting plagiarism. Turnitin.com is a plagiarism prevention and detection service to which Ryerson subscribes. It is a tool to assist faculty members in determining the similarity between student work and the work of other students who have submitted papers to the site (at any university), internet sources, and a wide range of journals and other publications. While it does not contain all possible sources, it gives faculty some assurance that students' work is their own. No decisions are made by the service; it simply generates an "originality report". Faculty must evaluate that report to determine if something is plagiarized.

Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternate arrangements.

If plagiarism is suspected in one of your assignments, you will be invited to attend a Facilitated Discussion with the instructor and Ryerson's Academic Integrity Officer. If the instructor determines that plagiarism has occurred, your assignment will receive a grade of '0' (the University's minimum penalty) and a Disciplinary Notice (DN) will be placed on your academic record. Further penalties may also be imposed, including an 'F' in the course and/or suspension from the University.

### **Important Resources Available at Ryerson**

Use the services of the University when you are having problems writing, editing or researching papers, or when you need help with course material:

- The Library (LIB 2nd floor) provides research workshops and individual assistance. Enquire at the Reference Desk or at [www.ryerson.ca/library/info/workshops.html](http://www.ryerson.ca/library/info/workshops.html)
- The Writing Centre (LIB 272- B) offers one-on-one tutorial help with writing and workshops [www.ryerson.ca/writingcentre/workshops.htm](http://www.ryerson.ca/writingcentre/workshops.htm)
- Learning Success (VIC B-15) offers individual sessions and workshops covering various aspects of researching, writing, and studying. You must book these directly through their website <http://www.ryerson.ca/student-services/learningsuccess/>
- English Language Support (VIC B-17) offers workshops to improve overall communication skills [www.ryerson.ca/student-services/els/](http://www.ryerson.ca/student-services/els/)

There is one general site where you may see and register for all of the workshops offered by all of these areas: <http://www.ryerson.ca/academicintegrity/workshops.html>.