

**Faculty of Arts
Department of Philosophy**

**PH 8115: Ancient Philosophy
Winter 2016
Mondays 3-6pm, JOR 440**

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Please use your Ryerson e-mail account and state your course and student number.

Calendar Description

This course involves a critical study of selected themes and doctrines in ancient Greek philosophy, with a focus on such seminal thinkers as Socrates, Plato, and/or Aristotle. Typical issues include: the nature of reality; the relation between universals and particulars; the nature of the soul and its relation to the body; the difference between knowledge and true belief, and between the different kinds of knowledge (philosophical, practical, mathematical, knowledge of the natural world); the nature of the good life and of virtue; the roles that reason, emotions, and appetites play in the virtuous person; the kinds of social, economic, and political structures that characterize the best society.

Course Details

We will read two dialogues by Plato, the *Phaedrus* (on writing) and the *Alcibiades* (on taking care of oneself). Equipped with our own understanding of these dialogues, we will then look at what Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault have made of them.

Knowledge of Ancient Greek and French will be helpful but are not required.

A course website will be accessible via <http://my.ryerson.ca>.

Reading:

(1) Plato, *Alcibiades* and *Phaedrus*. Any translation with Stephanus pages in the margin is acceptable. An good and affordable edition that contains both texts is:

- **C.D.C. Reeve, *Plato on Love*, Hackett 2006**

(2) Jacques **Derrida**, *Plato's Pharmancy*. In:

- ***Dissemination*, Chicago 1981** (English)

- *La Dissémination*, Paris 1972 (French, optional)

We will only need the first chapter.

(3) Michel **Foucault**, *Hermeneutics of the Subject*:

- ***The Hermeneutics of the Subject*, New York 2005** (English)

- *L'Herméneutique du Sujet*, Paris 2001 (French, optional)

I encourage students to buy used copies of the textbooks. If you want to help independent bookshops, try to avoid the major booksellers.

Tentative Schedule

- 01/18 Introduction
- 01/25 Plato, *Alcibiades* 103a-120c: Alcibiades is stupid
- 02/01 Plato, *Alcibiades* 120c-135e: Care of self
- 02/08 Plato, *Alcibiades*: open discussion
- Study Week*
- 02/21 Due date: Essay on Plato's Alcibiades**
- 02/22 Foucault, *Hermeneutics of the Subject*, Course Summary, Lectures 1-4 and 9
- 02/29 Foucault, *Hermeneutics of the Subject*, Lectures 12-13 and 23-24
- 03/07 Plato, *Phaedrus* 227a-241d: Setting, Lysias' speech
- 03/14 Plato, *Phaedrus* 237b-257b: Socrates' speeches
- 03/21 Plato, *Phaedrus* 257b-279c: On speech writing
- 03/28 Plato, *Phaedrus*: open discussion
- 04/04 Derrida, *Plato's Pharmacy I*
- 04/11 Derrida, *Plato's Pharmacy II*
- 04/24 Due date: Essay on Plato's Phaedrus**

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 20 %
- Essay on Plato's Alcibiades: 30 %
- Essay on Plato's Phaedrus: 50%

Participation in in-class discussions will be essential for success.

In both essays, you should discuss a topic of your choice and refer to specific passages in the Alcibiades / Phaedrus to support your view; either by objecting to them or defending them against objections. In any case, you should engage in a discussion that involves more than one point of view, and you should support every such point of view by detailed argument. Use secondary literature (handbooks, printed commentaries, journal papers).

All written assignments must be submitted online. MS Word and Adobe pdf are acceptable. Further formal requirements: 12pt, double spaced, reference list with proper bibliographical details for all material quoted and used.

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. 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. If you need clarification, speak to your professor.
- *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.
- *Students who need academic accommodation support* should register with the [Academic Accommodation Support office](#) (formerly called the Access Centre). Before the first graded work is due, registered students should inform their instructors through an “Accommodation Form for Professors” that they are registered with Academic Accommodation Support and what accommodations are required.

Student Code of Academic Conduct

Ryerson’s Policy 60 (now called the *Academic Integrity policy*) applies to all students at the University. The policy and its procedures are triggered in the event that there is a suspicion that a student has engaged in a form of academic misconduct.

Forms of academic misconduct include plagiarism, cheating, supplying false information to the University, and other acts. The most common form of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and penalties can be severe. In any academic exercise, plagiarism occurs when one offers as one’s own work the words, data, ideas, arguments, calculations, designs or productions of another without appropriate attribution or when one allows one’s work to be copied.

All academic work must be submitted using the citation style approved by the instructor. Students may refer to the Ryerson Library’s list of [Citations and Style Guides](#) for more information.

It is assumed that all examinations and work submitted for evaluation and course credit will be the product of individual effort, except in the case of group projects arranged for and

approved by the course instructor. Submitting the same work to more than one course, without instructor approval, is also considered a form of plagiarism.

Students are advised that suspicions of academic misconduct may be referred to the Academic Integrity Office (AIO). Students who are found to have committed academic misconduct will have a Disciplinary Notation (DN) placed on their academic record (not on their transcript) and will be assigned one or more of the following penalties:

- A grade reduction for the work, include a grade of zero for the work.
- A grade reduction in the course greater than a zero on the work. (Note that this penalty can only be applied to course components worth 10% or less, that any additional penalty cannot exceed 10% of the final course grade, and that information explaining that such a penalty will be assigned must be included on the course outline.)
- An F in the course.
- More serious penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.

All written assignments will be checked for **plagiarism**. One of the means for doing this will be turnitin.com. This is a plagiarism prevention and detection service to which Ryerson subscribes. It is a tool to assist faculty members in determining the similarity between students' 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," and 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.

Important Resources Available at Ryerson

- The Library provides research workshops and individual assistance. Inquire at the Reference Desk on the second floor of the library, or go to www.ryerson.ca/library/info/workshops.html
- [Student Learning Support](#) offers group-based and individual help with writing, math, study skills and transition support, and other issues.