

Faculty of Arts
Department of Philosophy
PHL 187 Ancient Greek Philosophy
Fall 2016

SECTION 2 (PHL 187-021)

TUE 1-3pm, TRS 2-129

WED 2-3pm, VIC 203

Instructor Name: Boris Hennig
Office Location: JOR - 438
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10am-12pm and by appointment
Email address: <my last name>@ryerson.ca.
Please use your Ryerson e-mail account and state your course and student number.

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

Ancient philosophy was a way of life, rather than an academic discipline. It was supposed to lead to a better understanding of one's own self and its position in the cosmos. We will look at some of Plato's writings on self-knowledge (the dialogues *Charmides* and *Alcibiades I*) and some of the further developments in Aristotle (book X of his *Nicomachean Ethics*) and later Ancient philosophy (the *Handbook* of Epictetus). One of the main assignments will consist in a radio feature.

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

Note on Liberal Studies

This course is designated as a lower level Liberal Studies course. Please note that certain liberal studies courses, due to their close relation to the professional fields, cannot be taken for Liberal Studies credit by students in some programs. A list of these programs and the restricted courses is provided in Table A Lower Level Restrictions and Table B Upper Level Restrictions in the Ryerson calendar.

Please note that Liberal Studies courses always have the designation (LL) or (UL) in their course description in the Ryerson Calendar. Courses not identified as either (LL) or (UL) are NOT Liberal

Studies courses and will not be used towards the fulfillment of a Liberal Studies Requirement for graduation purposes. Students are responsible for making appropriate course selections. Refer to Table A (Lower Level) and Table B (Upper Level) in Ryerson's calendar for a complete list of liberal studies courses.

Required Reading

Plato, *Apology of Socrates*. In: Grube and Cooper, eds., *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, Hackett 2001.

Plato, *Alcibiades I*. In: Johnson, ed., *Socrates and Alcibiades: Four Texts*, Focus Publishing 2002.

Plato, *Charmides*, tr. West, Hackett 1986.

Epictetus, *Handbook*, tr. White, Hackett 1983.

Xenophon, *Memorabilia IV 2* (pdf via course website).

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics X 6-8* (pdf via course website.)

Students are encouraged to purchase second hand books, and to avoid major booksellers. For Plato, only uses texts with *Stephanus numbers*. (This is standard. Please google "Stephanus pagination" for more information.)

Optional Reading

Thomas R. Martin, *An Overview of Classical Greek History from Mycenae to Alexander*.
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.04.0009>

Roger Lipsey, *Have you been to Delphi?* SUNY Press 2001.

Robin Waterfield, *Why Socrates Died*, McLelland & Stewart 2009.

Christopher Moore, *Socrates and Self-Knowledge*, Cambridge University Press 2015.

Tentative Schedule (Section PHL 187-021)

1. Week of Sept. 6th Introduction:
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|-----|---------|-------------------------------------|
| TUE | 9/6 1pm | Introduction |
| TUE | 9/6 2pm | Radio feature / What is Philosophy? |
| WED | 9/7 2pm | Self-knowledge |
- Optional reading:* Martin, *Overview*, The Aftermath of the Peloponnesian War

2. Week of Sept. 12th The Delphic Oracle
- | | | |
|-----|----------|----------------|
| TUE | 9/13 1pm | Ancient Greece |
| TUE | 9/13 2pm | The Pythia |
| WED | 9/14 2pm | Know thyself |
- Optional reading:* Lipsey, *Have you Been to Delphi*, ch. 12

3. Week of Sept. 19th Plato, *Apology of Socrates*
- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-------------------------|---------|
| TUE | 9/20 1pm | The charges | 17a-27e |
| TUE | 9/20 2pm | Socrates' way of life | 28a-35d |
| WED | 9/21 2pm | Socrates on his penalty | 35e-42a |
- Optional reading:* Waterfield, *Why Socrates Died*: ch. 1-3

4. Week of Sept 26th Plato, *Charmides*
- | | | | |
|-----|----------|-----------|-----------|
| TUE | 9/27 1pm | Prologue | 153a-158c |
| TUE | 9/27 2pm | Charmides | 158c-162b |
| WED | 9/28 2pm | Critias | 162c-167a |

5. Week of Oct. 3rd Plato, *Charmides* cont.
- | | | | |
|-----|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| TUE | 10/4 1pm | Self-knowledge (1) | 167b-169d |
| TUE | 10/4 2pm | Self-knowledge (2) | 169d-171c |
| WED | 10/5 2pm | Self-knowledge (3) | 171d-176d |

Study Week

Oct. 16th — **Due date:** Platonic Dialogue on self-knowledge and self-control

6. Week of Oct. 17th Plato, *Alcibiades*
- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| TUE | 10/18 1pm | Socrates and Alcibiades | 103a-109c |
| TUE | 10/18 2pm | Justice vs. advantage | 109d-116e |
| WED | 10/19 2pm | Alcibiades is stupid | 116e-120c |

7. Week of Oct. 24th Plato, *Alcibiades* cont.
- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| TUE | 10/25 1pm | Self-Care | 120c-127d |
| TUE | 10/25 2pm | The Self | 127e-132c |
| WED | 10/26 2pm | Self-Knowledge | 132d-135e |

8. Week of Oct. 31st Radio Feature
- TUE 11/1 1pm Recap *Alcibiades I*
- TUE 11/1 2pm Presentation by Mark Tremblay
- WED 11/2 2pm Radio feature: group work
- Optional reading:* Waterfield, *Why Socrates Died*: ch. 4-7
9. Week of Nov. 7 Xenophon, *Memorabilia IV 2*
- TUE 11/8 1pm Justice [1] - [23]
- TUE 11/8 2pm Know Thyself [24] - [40]
- WED 11/9 2pm Discussion / *Radio lab tour*
10. Week of Nov. 14 Review: Socrates (and Plato) on Self-Knowledge
- TUE 11/15 1pm Socratic ignorance
- TUE 11/15 2pm Self-knowledge and self-care
- WED 11/16 2pm The self, the divine, and justice
- Nov. 20th — **Due date:** Proposal for radio feature
11. Week of Nov. 21 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics X 6-8*
- TUE 11/22 1pm Happiness X 6 (1176a-1177a)
- TUE 11/22 2pm The highest virtue X 7 (1177a-1178a)
- WED 11/23 2pm Contemplation X 8 (1178a-1179a)
- Optional reading:* Aristotle, *Metaphysics* Λ 7 and 9
12. Week of Nov. 28 Epictetus, *Handbook*
- TUE 11/29 1pm What is up to us #1-19
- TUE 11/29 2pm Status etc. #20-32
- WED 11/30 2pm Philosophy #33-53
- Dec. 4th — **Due date:** Brief scholarly essay on Aristotle or Epictetus
- Dec. 10th — **Due date:** Radio feature

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 15 %
- **Platonic Dialogue** (due Oct 16th): 35 %
- **Radio Feature**
 - proposal (group work, due Nov. 20th): 10 %
 - recording (group work, due Dec. 10th): 15 %
 - peer evaluation (see below): 10%
- **Brief scholarly Essay** (due Dec. 4th): 15 %

Participation in in-class discussions will be essential for success. Attendance will be taken on a random basis.

The **Platonic Dialogue** (due **Oct 16th**) should be about 1000 words long. Write a dialogue in the style of the *Charmides*. Introduce the topic of self-knowledge / self-control by choosing an appropriate dramatic setting and describe an imaginary philosophical discussion among several people on this topic.

The **Radio Feature** is a group assignment. We will form groups of ca. 12 students each, which will cooperate on designing and producing a radio feature of about 15 minutes. Each group will have to submit a proposal in writing (ca. two - three pages) for their radio feature by **Nov. 20th**. The proposal should include a list of group members and their assigned tasks. The actual radio feature is due **Dec 10th**. Each group will submit the recording itself and supporting documents, including an updates list of group members and their tasks. The **peer evaluation** will be managed by an online peer evaluation system, details will follow.

The **Scholarly Essay** (due **Dec 4th**) should be about 750 words long. Compare Plato's ideas on self-knowledge and the relation of a person to their body with either Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* book X or Epictetus' *Handbook*. Pay attention to the different styles of investigation and presentation, and point out differences between Plato and Aristotle / Epictetus, as well as possible developments. Make use to at least *three* pieces of secondary literature, such as handbooks, commentaries, or journal papers. These must be pieces that have (also) officially been published by a reputable publisher in print (on paper).

There will be a **late penalty of 5% per day** for all assignments.

The two individual written assignments (the dialogue and the scholarly essay) must be submitted online. Only MS Word and Adobe pdf documents will be accepted. Further formal requirements: 12pt, double spaced, margins of about 1 inch. For the scholarly essay, a reference list with proper bibliographical details for all material quoted and used is required.

The dialogue and the scholarly essay will be evaluated for clarity of organization, logic, syntax, grammar, and content.

All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism.

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.