

Faculty of Arts
Department of Philosophy
PHL 187 Ancient Greek Philosophy
Fall 2015 (Sep 10th - Dec 3rd)
Thursdays 10am - 12 pm, KHS335
Mondays 4pm - 5pm, HEI201

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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

The Greek Sophists promised to teach rhetorics, virtues, and various intellectual skills. In his dialogue, the *Sophist*, Plato sets out to define what a Sophist is. He soon gets sidetracked, dealing with issues concerning being, non-being, truth, and falsity. We will begin with an overview of Ancient Greek philosophy, including Heraclitus, Parmenides, and the Sophists. Then we will read Plato's *Sophist* section by section.

Required text: Plato, *Sophist*, translated by Nicholas P. White, Hackett 1993.

A course website (D2L) 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.

Tentative Schedule

- 09/10 Introduction
- 09/14 *Lecture*: Historical Background
- 09/17 *Lecture*: Heraclitus
- 09/21 *Reading / Discussion*: Heraclitus, *Fragments* (pdf provided on D2L)
- 09/24 *Lecture*: Parmenides
- 09/28 *Reading / Discussion*: Parmenides' *Poem* (pdf provided on D2L)
- 10/01 *Lecture*: Sophists
- 10/05 *Reading / Discussion*: Gorgias, *On What is Not* (pdf provided on D2L)
- 10/08 *Lecture*: Plato (Overview)
- 10/10-10/18: *Study Week*
- 10/18: **Assignment due: Summary of the first part**
- 10/19 *Recap*
- 10/22 *Reading / Discussion*: Plato, *Sophist* 216a-231b: Definitions by division
- 10/26 cont.
- 10/29 *Reading / Discussion*: Plato, *Sophist* 232a-241b: How to talk about what is not
- 11/02 cont.
- 11/05 *Reading / Discussion*: Plato, *Sophist* 241b-251a: Question of being, battle of gods and giants
- 11/09 cont.
- 11/12 *Reading / Discussion*: Plato, *Sophist* 251a-259e: Late learners, blending
- 11/16 cont.
- 11/19 *Reading / Discussion*: Plato, *Sophist* 259e-264b: False statements
- 11/23 cont.
- 11/26 *Reading / Discussion*: Plato, *Sophist* 264b-268c: Conclusion
- 11/30 cont.
- 11/30 **Assignment: Final deadline for Reading Response**
- 12/03 *Reading / Discussion*: Aristotle, *De Interpretatione* 1-6
- 12/07 ...
- 12/14: **Assignment due: Final Essay**

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- General participation: 15 %
- D2L Discussion Forum participation: 15 %
- Summary of the first part (up to Study Week), due Oct. 18th: 20 %
- Reading Response, due any time before Nov 30th: 20 %
- Final Essay, due Dec. 14th: 30 %

Participation in in-class discussions will be essential for success. In addition, students are asked to participate in **Online Discussions** on D2L by contributing one to three sentences to each discussion topic. Each topic will be open for *one week* only.

The **Summary of the first part** should be about 800 words long. Give a selective summary of some of the topics covered before reading week (e.g. Heraclitus and Parmenides; Greek society and the Sophists).

The **Reading Response** should be 400-700 words. Summarize one of the assigned readings (one week). Focus on what is essential, explain what is illuminating or problematic. Reading Responses can be submitted *any time before* Nov. 30th. Earlier is better.

The **Final Essay** should be 1200-1500 words. Discuss one of the questions raised in Plato's *Sophist*. Cite and explain passages from the text; raise questions; consider possible objections to Plato's and to your own views.

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

The Summary and the Final 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.